

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVI.—NEW SERIES, No. 437.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1854.

[PRICE 6d.]



TEMPERANCE LINE OF
PACKETS from LONDON to AUSTRALIA, calling at Plymouth.—For PORT PHILLIP and SYDNEY, calling off Adelaide with passengers and their luggage only, the beautiful new ship HISTORIA, A 1,850 tons burthen, T. R. MOWATT, Commander, to sail March 15, lying in the East India Docks. She offers unusual advantages to passengers, having upwards of 7 feet height between decks, and great width of beam. The ventilation will be made most perfect, as, in addition to the ordinary appliances, she will be fitted with the ventilating apparatus recommended by Mrs. Chisholm. Baths and wash-houses will be erected on deck, and a library of 200 volumes will be supplied for the use of the passengers. A minister and an experienced surgeon will accompany the vessel. Passage-money for single persons and families 30 guineas. A few open berths for single men, at 18 guineas. For freight or passage apply to Messrs. Newcombe, and Co., 27, Rood-lane, Fenchurch-street, London.

WANTED, a Young Woman, as SERVANT
OF ALL WORK. A Member of a Christian Church preferred.—Apply, 97, Minories.

WANTED, a Young Person as ASSISTANT
TEACHER in a Boarding School. She must be well grounded in musical knowledge.—Apply to S. A. C., 161, High-street, Guildford.

WANTED, a STRONG LAD, about 15
or 16 years of age. He must write well, and be willing to make himself generally useful.—Apply by letter (pre paid) giving references, to J. N., at Messrs. Sears, Printers, 3, Ivy-lane, St. Paul's.

WANTED, in a British School in the
Metropolis, a Christian Young Man as an ASSISTANT. A liberal Salary will be given.—Applications with references to be addressed to Mr. BURDEN, 6, Store-street, Bedford-square, London.

WANTED, by a Young Man who is about
leaving his present situation, a re-engagement for the GROCERY and PROVISION TRADE. Satisfactory references. G. H. Nonconformist Office, Fleet-street.

WANTED immediately, an APPRENTICE
to the General Drapery and Clothing Business. A moderate Premium required.—For further particulars apply to RICHARD WHIBLEY, Draper, Sittingbourne, Kent.

TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.
E. PARSONS, Draper, Gloucester, is in want of a respectable Youth as an APPRENTICE. A moderate Premium required.

TO MINISTERS.—Any BAPTIST
MINISTER of liberal sentiments, Orthodox views, and good abilities, who may desire a REMOVAL, is recommended to communicate his wishes to A. Z., office of this paper. Implicit confidence may be reposed in the advertiser.

TO SCHOOL COMMITTEES.—A
Married Man, 35 years of age, who has had ten years' experience in TEACHING, and can be well recommended, is open for an engagement. He can teach Singing, train a Choir, or act as Organist.—Address, J. H., Coventry's Library, Hackney.

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—Wanted
immediately, a steady respectable Young Man, who thoroughly understands his business. Also, a Youth, as an APPRENTICE.—Apply to Mr. J. S. OSBORNE, Burslem.

TO DRAPERS.—A Young Person, in her
21st year of age, of highly respectable character, is desirous of a situation as SALESWOMAN, where she would meet with a comfortable home, in a Dissenter's family. She has had some experience, and reference would be given to her former employer.—Apply, stating terms, &c., to A. B., Post-office, Shoreham.

TO GROCERS AND TEA DEALERS.
Wanted, a Situation as FIRST COUNTERMAN, or MANAGER in a Branch Concern, by a Young Man of business habits and good address, age 25. Can give first-rate references.—Apply, A. B., 3, Buxton-terrace, Stratford, Essex.

THE FRIENDS of a YOUNG LADY, in
her Eighteenth year, are desirous of placing her for a short period in a BERLIN WOOL and FANCY SHOP. To ensure a comfortable home a small premium would be paid.—Apply to C. H., Archer's Library, Weymouth.

TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.
Wanted a respectable, active, and obliging Youth as an APPRENTICE in an Old Established Family Grocery Business, where he will be treated as one of the family, and have the opportunity of acquiring a thorough knowledge of his trade, also, the routine of Post-office duty. A moderate premium required. Apply by letter to C. M. T., Post-office, Greenwich, Kent. An Improver would be treated with.

TO LONDON and SUBURBAN CON-
GREGATIONS.—An INDEPENDENT MINISTER, of considerable experience and popular talents, is anxious to obtain a larger sphere of usefulness than he at present occupies. He would be glad to take the Pulpit and Pastoral duties of any large or moderate-sized London or Suburban Chapel in any populous neighbourhood, where little or even no salary could be given, leaving all financial arrangements entirely dependent on the success of his efforts.—Address, F. G. P., care of Partridge, Oakley, and Co., 34, Paternoster-row.

A YOUNG LADY, about to relinquish her
present situation, wishes to meet with a re-engagement as GOVERNESS in a Dissenting Family. She is fully competent to give instruction in the usual branches of a good English education, with Music, Singing, French, and Drawing. The most satisfactory Testimonials can be given.—Address, A. B., Post-office, Hemingford-road, Islington.

A CHRISTIAN WIDOW would be glad
to receive into her family, for PARTIAL BOARD and LODGING, a steady youth or young man, who would share a double bedded room with her only son, who is engaged in the city during the day. (This offer might interest parents in the country.) Terms, 13s. per week; references exchanged.—Address, Alpha, care of Mr. Reader, Post-office, Hemingford-road, Islington.

RENTS COLLECTED, HOUSES RE-
PAIRED, or Repairing Leases taken, by an experienced Builder. References and security given.—Apply to C. B., Nonconformist Office, 19, Fleet-street, London.

FUGITIVE SLAVES IN CANADA.—A
PUBLIC MEETING will be held on MONDAY NEXT, March 20, at CROSBY HALL, Bishopsgate-street, when the Rev. S. R. WARD will give a detailed statement of his labours in behalf of the above object. The Meeting will be addressed by the Rev. James Sherman, Rev. Dr. Campbell, Rev. Dr. Hamilton, Rev. John Macfarlan, B.A., Josiah Condor, Esq., Joseph Payne, Esq.; and, probably, by Sir E. N. Buxton, Bart., and Apsley Pellatt, Esq., M.P.—The Chair will be taken by SAMUEL GURNEY, Esq., at Seven o'clock.
* * * This is the last public meeting at which Mr. Ward will be able to attend in London.

WEEKLY TRACT SOCIETY.
PRESIDENT—James Kershaw, Esq., M.P.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:
Sir David Brewster, D.C.L., St. Andrew's,
Rev. Robert Bickersteth, M.A., London.
Rev. John Harris, D.D., London.
Rev. James Parsons, York, &c., &c.

TREASURER—William Garlick, Esq., 33, Great James-street.
This Society is especially designed to inculcate religion, and to promote the social, intellectual, and moral improvement of the Working Classes, by the publication of a new Tract every week, and its gratuitous circulation throughout the country. The Committee earnestly appeal for additional funds, with which they may double their weekly issue—a step rendered necessary by the increasing demand for the Society's Tracts in all parts of the Kingdom.

A donation of Five Guineas constitutes a Life Member; and an Annual Subscription of Five Shillings, or upwards, Membership of the Society.

Each Subscriber is entitled to a fourth part of his Subscription in Tracts, for the purpose of individual distribution.

Donations or Subscriptions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, or by Mr. Rowland Elliott, Corresponding Secretary, at the Office, 62, Paternoster-row.

ROWLAND ELLIOTT, Corresponding Secretary.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL,
HAVERSTOCK HILL, HAMPSTEAD ROAD.

For children of both sexes, of all denominations, and from every part of the kingdom.

UNDER THE IMMEDIATE PATRONAGE OF HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

The 96th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL will take place at the LONDON TAVERN, on TUESDAY, March 21st, 1854, when His Grace the DUKE OF ARGYLL will Preside.

LIST OF STEWARDS.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Feversham.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Shelburne, M.P.
The Rt. Hon. Lord Stanley, M.P.
Sir Horace St. Paul, Bart.
The Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P.
Baron L. De Rothschild, M.P.
Sir James Duke, Bart., Ald., M.P.
Sir John Villiers Shelley, Bart., M.P.
Sir John Kerle Habbfield, Knt.
Sir Anthony Rothschild.
Arthur Anderson, Esq.
William Arnup, Esq.
Wolverley Attwood, Esq.
Henry Baker, Esq.
Frederick Barlow, Esq.
Francis Bennoch, Esq.
Thomas Bodley, Esq.
James Carter, Esq.
Elias Chartier, Esq.
Joseph Clarke, Esq.
Thomas H. Clarke, Esq.
Daniel Cronin, Esq.
Charles Curling, Esq.
Thomas Dix, Esq.
William Dray, Esq.
Jeremiah Evans, Esq.
Conrad William Finzel, Esq.
Robert Forest, Esq.
Charles Finch Foster, Esq., Ald.
Samuel Gurney, Jun., Esq.
Sparkes Hall, Esq.
Thomas Herbert, Esq.
Rowland Hill, Esq.
John Hoppe, Esq.
Thomas B. King, Esq.
Isaac Solly Lister, Esq.
Charles Lushington, Esq.
George Maguire, Esq.
James Mann, Esq.
Joseph Moreland, Esq.
Samuel Morley, Esq.
John Neill, Esq., M.D.
Joseph North, Esq.
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Isaac Perry, Esq.
Jeremiah Giles Pilcher, Esq.
John Dixon Piper, Esq.
William Price, Esq.
A. W. Roberts, Esq.
George Robertson, Esq.
J. Ebenezer Saunders, Jun., Esq.
John George Shaw, Esq., Mayor of Bristol.
Richard Solly, Esq.
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Henry Taylor, Esq.
William Taylor, Esq.
R. S. Thurgood, Esq., Mayor of Saffron Walden.
Laurence Thomson, Esq.
B. R. Thomson, Esq.
Hull Terrell, Esq.
Robert Tidswell, Esq.
John M. Vernon, Esq.
William Wansey, Esq.
Alexander Webster, Esq.
Frederick Webner, Esq.
Robert Wilkinson, Esq.
Samuel T. Williams, Esq.
H. O. Wills, Esq.
W. D. Wills, Esq.

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.
Tickets for the Festival ONE GUINEA.
OFFICE, 32, LUDGATE HILL.

SOLDIERS' FRIEND SOCIETY.—Insti-
tuted for the Purpose of Diffusing Religious Knowledge throughout the British Army.

PATRON.—The Right Hon. the Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR, M.P.
OFFICE.—EXETER HALL, STRAND, LONDON.

The Committee of this Society, having had its especial attention drawn to the peculiar position of the Men of the British Army, and to the fact that large numbers of troops are being embarked for Foreign Service, and, if need be, to act upon the defensive side (for which, at a religious point of view, many of them are unprepared), have appointed Mr. RAY, formerly in the Army, and recently of the London City Mission, as one of the Society's Missionaries, for the especial purpose of visiting the Men who may be selected for this duty. They have also resolved to issue a larger number than usual of the "Christian Sentinel," and to add greatly to their stock of Tracts for this Service, whereby a large additional expense will be incurred, which the present limited income of the Society is unequal to. An earnest appeal is therefore made to the Friends of the Spread of the Gospel, that the Committee may be enabled to carry out more efficiently its already extensive labours, as also to complete its present design, whereby this portion of the community (who have until recently been much neglected), by the means employed (under the blessing of God), may be fitted and prepared for death and judgment.

During the past year, the Society's Missionaries have been actively engaged, having held several meetings and distributed upwards of 25,000 Tracts among the men.

While the bodies of the Soldiers are being cared for, the Committee trust that Friends will come forward and enable them to care for their souls.

SUMS RECEIVED SINCE LAST ADVERTISEMENT.			
£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
The Misses Harrison	5 0 0	Henry Rodgers, Esq.	2 0 0
Mrs. J. Hornsby Wright	1 1 0	Rev. J. Davies, Worcester	1 1 0
Miss Wilson	1 0 0	Colonel Clowes	2 0 0
Miss Rawson	2 0 0	Mrs. Cadman	2 0 0
Mrs. Landon	1 0 0	H. Wilson, Esq.	1 0 0
Henry Thomas, Esq.	0 10 0	J. Wilson, Esq.	0 5 0

FOR TESTAMENTS.			
J. I. Briscoe, Esq.	1 0 0	Mrs. F. Paynter and Family	0 10 6
Miss Shepherd	1 0 0	Mr. Allen	1 0 0
Miss Milner	1 0 0	Stamps	0 4 0
A Friend	1 0 0	A Friend	0 9 0
Thomas Dawes, Esq.	2 0 0	G. and A. S.	5 0 0
A Friend (Hyde)	2 0 0	John Henderson	5 0 0
Duchess of Manchester	2 2 0	E. T.	5 0 0
Servants of ditto	0 10 6	Rev. W. Tilson Marsh	1 1 0
C. A.	2 0 0	The Soldier's Friend	0 12 0
Young Friends at Casterton	1 5 6	Miss Mearns	0 12 0
Lieutenant Bowron	1 0 0	A Reader of the "Record"	0 5 0
H. L. H., per "Record"	1 0 0	D. D. D.	2 0 0
A Friend, per ditto	0 10 0	Lord George Hill	2 0 0
Young Friends, per Mrs. Hooley	1 5 6	Mrs. Landon	1 0 0

COLLECTED BY MISS MARSH, OF BECKENHAM.			
Mrs. Scott, of Bromley	5 0 0	Mrs. Scott, Rotherfield	1 0 0
Servants of ditto	0 5 0	A Few Crystal Palace Workmen	0 10 0
Mrs. Fortesque	0 5 0	Rev. W. K. Marshall	0 5 0
Hon. Mrs. Marsh	1 0 0	The Misses Marshall	0 10 0
Mr. Chalmers, Beckenham	1 0 0	Mrs. Marshall, Clifton	0 10 0
Miss Marsh	1 0 0	Miss Wilkinson, Shortland	0 10 0
A Family at Langley	2 7 0	Dowager Lady Harris	1 0 0
Servants of ditto	0 6 0	A Lady's Maid	0 1 0
Mr. and Mrs. Ogle and Family	1 17 6	Three Young Ladies	0 4 6
Peter Cator, Esq.	1 0 0	Some Poor Women	0 1 6
Lady Astley	0 10 0		

Received also, from John Henderson, Esq., 1,000 copies of the "Working Man's Testimony to the Sabbath;" and from Misses Harrison, 500 Hymn-books, for distribution.

Contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, G. Burns, Esq., 17, Porteus-road, Paddington; by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. A. Blake, at the Office, 15, Exeter-hall; by Messrs. Nisbet, Berners-street, Oxford-street; and at the Office of the Christian Times.

EAGLE-STREET CHAPEL, RED-LION

SQUARE, HOLBORN.—The Committee appointed for the re-building of the above ancient Sanctuary beg to inform their friends, that the first list of contributions and promises will be published the first week in April. Those friends who will kindly assist them to accomplish this desirable object, will oblige by forwarding their subscriptions, or intentions, to either of the following gentlemen before the close of the present month:—

Mr. H. CRASSWELLER, Treasurer, 36, Welbeck-street, Marylebone.

Rev. FRANCIS WILLS, Secretary, 4, Granville-square, Pentonville.

Mr. JOHN SHOVELLER, Assistant Secretary, 21, Lisle-street, Leicester-square.

Mr. PETER BROAD, 29, Tavistock-street, Covent Garden.

Mr. RICHARD CARTWRIGHT, 57, Chancery-lane.—Or of the Deacons,—

Mr. THOMAS MERRETT, 7, St. John's-square, Clerkenwell;

Mr. JOHN BURRIDGE, 46, Rosoman-street, Clerkenwell; and

Mr. WILLIAM PARKER, Houghton-street, Clare Market.

Or paid to the account of Eagle-street Chapel Building Fund, at Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, & Co., Lombard-street. Information being sent to Rev. Francis Wills, Secretary, as above; and all Post Office Orders are requested to be made payable at the General Post Office, to Francis Wills, when printed receipts will be immediately forwarded.

CHRISTIANITY and SECULARISM.—

INTERESTING RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY. A Course of SIX LECTURES on CHRISTIANITY and SECULARISM will be delivered in the theatre of the LONDON MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, by the Rev. BROOKE HERFORD (of Todmorden), on the following evenings:—Monday, March 20; Tuesday, March 21; Thursday, March 23; Monday, March 27; Tuesday, March 28; Thursday, March 30.

At the conclusion of each Lecture opportunity for Discussion will be afforded, when some friends of Secularism will explain their opinions of the arguments of the lecturer.

The Lectures will commence at Eight o'clock.

Tickets for the Course, 1s. Single Admission, 3d. Tickets can be obtained at the Institution; at 240, Strand; and at 147, Fleet-street.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

A CHURCH SAMPLE FROM THE CABINET.

It has been made tolerably obvious, during the past week, even to the most incredulous, that Her Majesty's Government have no intention of conceding anything whatever to the just demands of Protestant Dissenters. The divided Cabinet, it would seem, in regard to their ecclesiastical policy, can agree upon nothing, unless it be to negative the wishes of one half of their supporters. Last week, we informed our readers that the Ministerial measure of Universities' Reform will contain no provision for admitting Dissenters to the advantages of those ancient seats of learning—and now we have to record an absolute refusal to abolish Ministers' Money in Ireland, grounded on the inviolability of Church Property. This fatuity of Her Majesty's advisers is important, as affording us some clue to their Church policy in other and more pressing matters—and, as such, we need tender no apology to our readers for commenting upon it with some plainness of speech.

"Ministers' Money," as we have already explained, is an Irish Church-rate, leviable in eight of the principal Roman Catholic cities of Ireland, and, like our English Church-rate, productive of the angriest feelings between sect and sect. Whatever reasons might be urged upon the Government for the extinction of Church-rates in England and Wales, may be set out *à fortiori* for the abolition of Ministers' Money. The grievance is acknowledged to be such by all parties; but then it is unable to plead an immemorial prescription in its defence. It raises but about £15,000 per annum in support of the Established Clergy—a paltry amount, which can readily be replaced from the sums in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. It is exacted chiefly from those who profess that very creed which this odious impost is designed to be instrumental in subverting. It is, confessedly, a tax indefensible in principle embodied in a form which makes it as exasperating as possible in its operation. Nothing can be pleaded for it but the simple fact, that authority to levy it was conferred by Act of Parliament in the reign of that monarch of pious memory, Charles the Second. Looking at all these features of the tax, it might well have been supposed that the Government, urged thereto by above a hundred of their own Parliamentary supporters, would have wisely and gracefully conceded what the people of Ireland, and the Protestant Dissenters of England, unitedly desire.

That the Cabinet have not thought proper to give way in such a case is ominous enough—but that they should shelter themselves behind a plea of "the inviolability of Church property" is most offensive. Are personal taxes, then, however impolitic, however unjust, to be considered beyond the possibility of repeal, whenever levied in support of the Church? Are they one whit more the rightful property of the Establishment than a war-tax is the property of the Army and Navy? Have Sir John Young's masters *always* treated ecclesiastical property as inviolable? Did they feel the force of their own principle when they passed their

Tithe Commutation Act for Ireland, and gave up to landlord rapacity 25 per cent. of the Church's income? What is Church property but national property—just in the same way that the ships of the Admiralty, and the munitions of the Horse Guards, belong to the nation? "Inviolable," forsooth! What does that mean but that the Church will not give up a single farthing to which, justly or unjustly, she can advance a legal claim, and that Her Majesty's Ministers will back her in this determination? No! we do them wrong. They will in one breath plead the sacredness of Church Property as a reason for resisting the proposed abolition of the Irish Church-rate, and, in the next, they will themselves propose a shabby compromise, which, in principle, equally infringes upon their own maxim. Their consistency, however, with their own professions is not the point under review. What most concerns us is, that they have chosen to put forward a bad argument, in justification of a bad act, at the worst juncture of time that they could well have selected. For, it is as an omen, rather than as a fact, that we attach importance to the conduct of Ministers on Thursday and Friday evenings of the week just ended.

If this had been a matter on which the Government had been taken by surprise, we should have schooled our charity into an anticipation that, what had been done in haste would be amended at leisure, and that their error arose rather from position than policy. But this is not the case. They had sufficient warning last session that compromise on these outlying ecclesiastical subjects was extremely unpalatable to the majority of their own friends, and they had the whole vacation within which to consider whether the bill of last session was one which they ought to force on the acceptance of recalcitrant supporters. What they have done, therefore, they have, no doubt, done deliberately and on system; and we may reasonably conclude, the principle by which they have settled, or attempted to settle, this question of Ministers' Money in Ireland, will be the principle on which they will propose a settlement of Church-rates in England. In brief, we are fully justified in believing that the Ministry, whom we assist to keep in power, will use that power to rivet our most galling burdens upon our shoulders.

It appears, by an analysis of the division list given elsewhere that no less than 132 members of the House of Commons recorded their opposition, either on Thursday or Friday evening, in favour of a total abolition of this Irish ecclesiastical impost, and against any attempt to deal with it in a spirit of compromise. They were all of them, nearly to a man, habitual supporters of the Government. Well, how were they opposed? By Tories, of course—but the Tories who voted on these two occasions would have been a minority but for the members and friends of a professedly Liberal administration. Not less than twenty-nine placemen led on 120 Tories, and some forty to fifty Liberal sympathisers to a double victory over their own side. In fact, Ministers display more alacrity in flouting their own adherents, than in routing their professed adversaries. And, perhaps, until they are taught a severer lesson of dependence than any which has been read to them hitherto, they will again and again triumph over their own side of the House, by enlisting against it the willing service of the gentlemen opposite.

But we respectfully appeal to Nonconformist members, at least, to give due heed to their own position and prospects. Their desires will be refused, their wishes ignored, and their cause treated with contempt, unless they can make up their minds to be dangerous as well as useful. It is a pity that it should be so, but so it is. In politics, forbearance is sometimes a greater mistake than intemperance itself; and to be always helping to defeat our own purposes, is really little better than soaping the nose which we complain of others for pulling. We do not doubt the policy of helping to carry every good measure proposed by the present, or by any, Administration; but we do begin to doubt whether we should allow them to rank us among their habitual supporters. In a single phrase, if their schemes can only be realised

by harking their foes on to a large section of their friends, we see no right that they can have to push those schemes—and if, contrary to entreaty and remonstrance, they *will* push them, then it becomes a pertinent question whether they ought not to be reminded of the source from which they sprang, and pointed to "the hole of the pit whence they were digged."

SOCIETY FOR THE LIBERATION OF RELIGION FROM STATE-PATRONAGE AND CONTROL.

It will be remembered that a private and confidential *soiree*, in connexion with this society, was held at Radley's Hotel at the commencement of last month, when the new plans of procedure adopted by the Committee were submitted to a number of the leading friends and supporters of the Society. It was then determined to make an earnest effort to carry out the proposal to raise, for the purposes of the organization, \$5,000 a-year, by subscriptions promised for the next three years, and a subscription list, containing sums varying from £50 to £5 downwards, was made up, amounting in all to between £400 and £500. This comparatively private effort it was resolved to follow up by others on a larger scale, both in town and country, and, accordingly, a public *soiree* took place on Wednesday evening last at the Whittington Club, Strand, when there was a large and influential gathering of the friends of the Society, including several ladies. Some hour and-a-half having been pleasantly occupied in partaking of the customary refreshments, dessert was placed upon the tables, and the proper business of the evening commenced. Lawrence Heyworth, Esq., M.P., was called upon to preside; and among the company we observed Frank Crossley, Esq., M.P.; James Bell, Esq., M.P.; W. P. Murrugh, Esq., M.P.; Edward Miall, Esq., M.P.; Samuel Morley, Esq., Charles Gilpin, Esq., Rev. John Burnet, Rev. J. H. Hinton, Rev. George Rose, Rev. John Kennedy, Rev. John Blackburn, Rev. John Waddington, Rev. William Groser, Rev. Henry Richard, Rev. J. C. Galloway, Rev. Francis Wills, Rev. W. Owen, Rev. J. Bigwood, Rev. R. Macbeth, Rev. G. W. Fishbourne, Rev. S. Eastman, William Edwards, Esq., A. J. Nicholas, Esq., William Shaen, Esq., A. Chamerovzou, Esq., Samuel Lucas, Esq., Professor J. C. Foster, J. Carvell Williams, Esq., Ebenezer Clarke, Esq. Letters, moreover, explaining the cause of their absence, were stated by the Secretary to have been received from Mr. Barnes, M.P., Mr. Scholefield, M.P., Mr. Peto, M.P., Mr. Pilkington, M.P., Mr. Milligan, M.P., Dr. Stowell, Dr. Price, Dr. W. Smith, and Dr. Burns; Rev. J. Sherman, Rev. Philip Smith, Rev. David Thomas, Rev. W. Kirkus, Rev. J. Davies, Rev. H. Solly, Rev. J. G. Horton, Mr. Deputy Pewtress, and other gentlemen.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the business of the evening, remarked that he had been brought up and educated in the principles of the Church of England, and yet he had come to the conclusion that a State-supported system of worship was altogether inimical to the progress of true religion and the increase of intelligence among the people. It was this principle, moreover, which the Society whose interests they had met together to advance, sought to diffuse throughout the length and breadth of the land—believing that its recognition and adoption would be for the highest welfare of the nation. This, however, could not be done without money, which had been called the "sinews of war," but which was as needful for the successful prosecution of the enterprises of peace, benevolence, and religion, as for the operations of actual war; and, surely, the promoters of the best interests of of mankind ought not to be, in the least degree, behind those who were at the present moment, he was sorry to say, clamouring for war, in earnestness and zeal, and untiring devotion to the objects which they had at heart. One of the purposes, therefore, of the present assembly was to ask the friends of the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control, to contribute of their substance towards its effective support. Another object which they had in view was, to petition the Legislature of the country to throw open the two great Universities of England, Oxford and Cambridge, to the Nonconforming portion of the community. Those important seminaries of learning were national property, and ought not, therefore, to be devoted exclusively to the benefit of one class of the people, however large and influential that class might be. But the members of the Church of England were only a moiety of the religious professors of this king-

dom, as the recent census had clearly shown, and a minority of the entire population. If a precedent for the course which the Dissenters called upon the Government to pursue with reference to the Universities should be required, it might easily be found. Those seats of learning were, at one time, in the hands of the Roman Catholics, and devoted to their use; but, when a large proportion of the people became Protestants, the Government did not hesitate to transfer the advantages which they offered to the adherents of the reformed faith. There could be no valid reason, therefore, why a portion of the revenues of the Universities should not be made available for Dissenters as well as Churchmen; and he had but little doubt that the justice and propriety of their claim would, before long, be felt and acknowledged by the Government of the country. (Cheers.) The Chairman concluded by calling upon

The SECRETARY, who made a brief statement of the recent proceedings, and of the plans of the committee. After referring to the changes effected at the Conference, which had been found to have produced a very favourable impression, he explained the object of the recently formed Parliamentary Sub-Committee. Although the session was but a few weeks old, there were indications that that Sub-Committee would have sufficient work out for it. For instance, on the previous night they had had their first skirmish, and had been glad to help their Stoke-Newington friends in securing the defeat of a parish church bill, which might be described as a snug church job. (Cheers.) On the next night a motion would be made for the abolition of Ministers' Money in Ireland, a miserable exaction which ought to have been abolished long ago. The Government were about to attempt the reform of the Universities, and they, therefore, thought the time had come when the opening of those institutions to the people, irrespective of the irreligious opinions, should be resolutely pressed. (Cheers.) A settlement of the Church-rate question had been promised, and it would be necessary to insist on the entire abolition of that exaction. (Hear, hear.) Then Dr. Phillimore was to have a tilt at simony, and the Marquis of Blandford to improve the administration of episcopal and caputular property. The Church Buildings' Acts had also to be amended; the colonial clergy were seeking to be relieved from alleged disabilities; and the Bishop of London wished to legalize pew-rents. These questions, with the Miscellaneous Estimates, and other topics certain to come up, would supply excellent opportunities for pressing their principles upon the attention of Parliament. (Hear, hear.) It was desired that there should be co-operation with other bodies, and accordingly, overtures had been made to the Dissenting Deputies, having in view that object. (Hear.) The Committee desired, as soon as practicable, to form an Electoral Committee, which should, by working among the constituencies, augment their strength in the House of Commons, which, however respectable, was as yet inadequate. (Hear.) They did not intend to neglect the press as an agency, and among other steps had in preparation two works, which would put before the public the striking facts contained in the recently published census. Such was the course which had been marked out, but the fulfilment of such intentions must greatly depend on the extent to which the requisite funds were supplied. The Committee had taken upon themselves a work which would involve much laborious application, as well as anxiety and responsibility, but the demand would be cheerfully met, if they were adequately sustained by their friends without. (Cheers.)

JAMES BELL, Esq., M.P., in the absence of Dr. Harris, of New College—who was unavoidably detained as he was about leaving home to attend the meeting—moved:—

That this meeting, believing it to be the duty of the friends of Voluntaryism to avail themselves of multiplied facilities for commending their principles to the attention of the public and of Parliament, regards with great satisfaction the arrangements made by the Executive Committee for increasing the practical efficiency of the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control.

He expressed the satisfaction which he felt, that it was not the simple declaration of an abstract principle about which they were probably all agreed, but a resolution of practical application. He was not at all in favour of applying to the Legislature for the granting of privileges; but it was absolutely necessary to resort to that body for the removal of disabilities. Former Governments had placed Dissenters in a disadvantageous position as compared with the rest of the community, and they now asked the present Government to undo the acts of their predecessors. To secure this object, it was of course not only desirable but necessary that Dissenters should unite their strength, and work zealously together for its attainment. A thousand fires in as many stoves throughout the country might serve very well to boil a thousand tea-kettles, and to warm and cheer a thousand families; but put all those thousand fires into one furnace, and what an enormous power of machinery would they be enabled to set in motion. (Laughter and cheers.) So let the Nonconformists of this country unite themselves together in a Society like the present, with a view to remove from themselves those disabilities which they have now been suffering from for many years, and they would be far more successful in the attainment of the object than if they were each to remain separate, working for the same end in their individual capacities. The circumstances of the case, moreover, were such, that it was most important to have a constant eye to every ecclesiastical movement of the age in its bearing upon the Legislature of the country, and to have the forces of Nonconformity so concentrated as to be able to make them tell upon that body when the interests of full religious liberty were seen to be endangered by party movements. At the present moment there were a whole "crop" of Ecclesiastical measures—as Mr. Hadfield had happily termed them—which required close and diligent attention from the friends of religious freedom;

and he suggested that no better time could be found for making the attempt to set these matters to rights than the present, when the minds of those who would desire to keep things as they are, or to make them worse, were engaged upon the subject of war. (Hear, hear.)

Rev. J. KENNEDY, in seconding the resolution, also expressed the pleasure which he felt in observing the practical turn which the committee were giving to the efforts of this Society, and especially that a Parliamentary Committee had been appointed. He had no doubt that this Committee would constantly have an abundance of work upon their hands. He held in his hand a bill which would require considerable attention. It was to provide Industrial Schools for the county of Middlesex—a very laudable and desirable object, if fairly carried out. But there was a clause in the bill which would wholly exclude from the chaplaincy of the proposed institutions all Nonconformist ministers. It was provided that the chaplain should be in "priest's orders," and be licensed by the bishop of the diocese, which licence shall be revoked by the bishop whenever he shall see fit. Now this was an unnecessary and most objectionable provision; and what made it all the more anomalous was the fact, that the idea of such schools had been suggested to the Middlesex magistrates by an institution of that order in Scotland, and which it was intimated was to serve as a model. The institution in Glasgow had been exceedingly successful, so much so that 80 per cent. of its inmates had become reformed and placed in the way of getting an honest livelihood. (Cheers.) But the chaplain of that institution was a Baptist minister, and to his exertions it was mainly indebted for the position which it occupied and the success with which it had been hitherto attended. (Cheers.) That gentleman had been chosen by the local authorities because of his fitness for the place, wholly irrespective of the community to which he might happen to belong. This, of course, was how it should be; but when Englishmen got hold of a grand thing they seemed to be impelled by some evil genius to mar its efficiency by the introduction of this State-Church principle. (Hear, hear.) He did not deny the right of the Government to stand in loco parentis towards the criminal class of society for which such institutions were designed, but he very strongly objected to any such restriction as this bill sought to legalize, in respect to the appointment of chaplains; who would thus be placed in, or removed from, their office without the local authorities having any voice at all in the matter. As Lord Palmerston had intimated his intention to introduce a general measure upon the subject of Reformatory Institutions for Juvenile Criminals, the bill to which he had adverted, that was to have been introduced by Lord Robert Grosvenor, might possibly be rendered void; but the very existence of such a bill showed the necessity for a Parliamentary Committee like that which had been appointed, to scrutinize all measures of a similar character. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Kennedy next adverted to the subject of University Reform, and asked why the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge should not be thrown open equally with the Universities of Scotland? He was at that moment surrounded by gentlemen who had taken degrees, with honours, in these Universities, and while there they were known as students only, and not at all as Dissenters; their religious opinions never came into question. Why should not this be so on the south side of the Border? He did not expect, indeed, that the measure to be proposed by the Government, and that which would be adopted, would be such as to meet the wishes of the Nonconformists of this country; but it was, nevertheless, of the highest importance, that the Dissenters should seek to make the proposed reform of that character which it ought to be, feeling assured that if good principles were diligently sown, they would spring up at some future day, and bring forth an abundance of wholesome fruit. Even those who were within the walls of the Whittington Club when the Anti-State-Church Association was brought into existence, might live long enough to see the principles of that association triumphant. (Cheers.)

Dr. FOSTER, who had been referred to as chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, was here introduced to the meeting, and received with applause. He said that he felt exceedingly anxious that all the friends of religious freedom should derive the greatest possible advantage from that department of the Society over which he had been called to preside. After giving a humorous account of the Parliamentary proceedings on the previous evening with respect to the Stoke Newington Church Bill, and exciting considerable laughter by calling attention to a clause making the "voluntary" contributions already promised compulsorily payable within a stated period after the passing of the act, Dr. Foster pledged himself, that if the Society was adequately supported by its friends, that no matter of any importance of a Parliamentary nature requiring the attention of the committee should be overlooked. Many members of Parliament would, without doubt, be much more disposed to act with decision and promptitude in favour or against any bill which a competent body of gentlemen, after careful examination, could report upon either favourably or otherwise; and he believed that at the present moment the state of parties was such as to give promise that Nonconformists, if united, and in earnest, would be successful in their actions. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the University Reform, he said that the Dissenters for the last twenty years had not manifested any special desire for the Universities to be thrown open for their use, and, under such circumstances, it was not to be supposed that the Government would take any very active measures in their behalf. Now, however, when the Government might regard a few votes as of great importance, a moderate proposition, would possibly be listened to with attention. (Hear, hear.)

SAMUEL LUCAS, Esq., of Stoke Newington, ex-

pressed his thanks to the committee for their valuable services in respect to the bill affecting his parish. That bill had called his attention to the subject of vestries, and he complained of the disabilities of Dissenters in respect of them, and asked why should the rector of that church, which was the church of a minority, preside at the vestry?

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

SAMUEL MORLEY, Esq., moved the next resolution:—

"That as the extent and the success of the Society's operations must be greatly dependent on the degree of pecuniary support which it receives, this meeting is prepared to unite in carrying out the proposals of the late Conference, to raise an annual income of £25,000 for the next three years."

The great strength, he remarked, of the Dissenters, lay in the thoroughly unselfish character of the objects they were seeking to obtain. They were claiming no right for themselves which they did not insist upon as belonging also to every one of their fellow-subjects. They constantly affirmed that the Government had no right, as such, to know anything of the religious opinions of its subjects. As an illustration of the principle for which Nonconformists contended, Mr. Morley read the provisions of an Act passed in one of the States of America, in 1786, which secured the most complete religious liberty to every individual coming within its jurisdiction. Adverting to the present operations of the Religious Liberation Society, Mr. Morley urged the duty of every one of its friends rendering at this particular juncture, and for the next three years, all the support which they could possibly afford. In future there would be less of controversy and more of actual work in the society. He had himself been happy to increase his subscription considerably for the next three years, and could wish that every old subscriber would do the same. It was expected that the metropolis would contribute at least £1,000 out of the £5,000 required, and when this had been guaranteed, then the committee would be prepared to go to the providing for the other £4,000, and had no doubt of being able to realize that amount. The Dissenters of Britain had now a most important work to perform in the extension of their principles, and they never had a better opportunity, and it behoved them, therefore, to show that they were fully alive both to the privileges and obligations. (Cheers.)

The REV. J. WADDINGTON seconded the resolution. Referring to the martial tone of the meeting, he hoped it would not be forgotten that every penny paid in the approaching war, and every drop of blood that would be shed was indirectly connected with the Church and State principle; for the quarrel arose at first out of a contest about the Holy Sepulchre; and the war would be a religious crusade on the part of the Emperor of Russia. Mr. Waddington proceeded to descant upon the state of religious liberty in this country in the days of Elizabeth and subsequent periods, with a view of showing the improvement which had been effected, and the encouragement which such facts presented for a more vigorous assertion and defence of principle.

This resolution was also unanimously adopted.

After the subscription papers—which were distributed over the room—had been collected, it was announced that nearly £800 had been subscribed. As the names of the subscribers will, we understand, be advertised in our next number, we need not give any of the names here.

EDWARD MIAL, Esq., M.P., then moved the adoption of a petition to Parliament, to be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, with respect to University Reform, praying for the admission of Dissenters. He had made up his own mind, individually, at first, when he saw that the Government did not intend to introduce any clause of the kind desired, to vote against their bill on the second reading. He thought it most offensive and impudent on the part of the Government to bring forward a measure in relation to institutions which were universally recognised as national institutions, and to deal with them for the benefit of only one-third of Her Majesty's subjects. (Hear, hear.) He thought it right, in such a case, for the rest of the community to stand aside and say we will not help you in any such thing. (Cheers.) Lord John Russell had said that with the insertion of such a clause as the Dissenters required the Government would not be able to carry the measure through the House of Lords. Who was it sitting in that House who prevented such measures being carried? (Hear.) Did it become the Nonconformists to bow to the decision of the Episcopal Bench? (Hear.) If the Ministers of the Crown felt themselves bound by the narrow-minded decision of the bishops in the House of Lords, ought they not to be left entirely to the support which those bishops can render? (Cheers.) Were Dissenting Members of Parliament excluded from the Universities and treated with contempt, likewise to sell themselves as slaves and do the work of those who affected to despise them? (Hear, hear.) He thought not, but he had consented to vote for the second reading of the Bill, in order to see if the clause would be allowed to be introduced in committee, and if it were not, then he would vote against the third reading, and endeavour to get as many of his fellow members as he could to vote with him. (Hear, hear.) If the Government chose to ignore the rights of at least a third of the worshipping community of the country, then let them take the consequence of doing so. (Hear, hear.) If a hundred petitions were sent up to the House praying for the opening of the Universities in the manner sought after, they might possibly be productive of considerable effect. He proposed the adoption of a petition by the present meeting which would serve as a model for others:—

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The humble petition of certain inhabitants of London assembled at a Meeting convened by the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control, held March 8th, 1854.

Sheweth, That your petitioners rejoice at the general recognition of the principle, that civil rights and privileges

should be enjoyed by all the subjects of the realm without regard to their religious opinions.

That in their opinion this principle is violated in the exclusion of all but members of the Church of England from the University of Oxford, and from the honorary and pecuniary rewards of learning at the University of Cambridge—those institutions being national in their character, and being so regarded by the Legislature.

That such exclusion operates to the serious injury of Dissenters, who are thereby deprived of valuable educational facilities, are disqualified for the occupancy of many public posts, and are shut out from many social advantages.

That your Honourable House being about to consider measures having in view the more complete development of the educational resources of the Universities, and their adaptation to the present wants of the people, your petitioners are earnestly desirous that this grievance should be now redressed.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House, that in any Bill affecting the Constitution of the Universities, which may receive its sanction, provision may be made for rendering their advantages available to all classes without distinction of sect or creed.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

On behalf of the Meeting,
Laurence Heyworth, Chairman.

W. P. MURROUGH, Esq., M.P., seconded the adoption of the petition, which was unanimously adopted.

F. CROSSLEY, Esq., M.P., proposed the thanks of the meeting to the Chairman, which was seconded by WILLIAM EDWARDS, Esq., Treasurer of the Society, and adopted with much cheering. A few words from the Honourable Chairman, by way of acknowledgment, brought the proceedings to a close.

OUR CHURCH-RATE RECORD.

THE REV. J. E. GLADSTONE AND CHURCH-RATES AT TORQUAY.

There has been an exciting church-rate warfare going on at Torquay, the particulars of which are duly chronicled by our vigilant contemporary, the *Western Times*. It appears that, on the 21st day of November last, a vestry meeting was held, and, according to the statements of the churchwardens, a Church-rate was granted. This is denied by its opponents. At all events the rate was not collected, and another meeting was called on the 6th of January, "to take such further measures as may be deemed advisable in respect of the rate granted by the majority of the parishioners in vestry duly assembled, on Monday, the 21st day of November last; and, if so determined, to rescind the resolution of that vestry," &c. At this meeting an amendment, proposing that the consideration of a Church-rate be postponed to that day six months, was moved, but the chairman refused to put it, on the ground that it was illegal. Nevertheless, it was put to the vote, and was carried by 72 to 26, the same majority determining that the meeting should then adjourn. Those who remained behind then carried a rate. The sum of 6s. 6d. having been demanded of the Rev. J. E. Gladstone, of the Furrrough Cross Church, St. Mary Church, he refused to pay. He was summoned before the bench of magistrates a few days ago, and, at considerable length, stated his objections to the rate. He wished clearly to state that he did not resist the rate out of any hostility to the Church or to the law of the land, but proceedings had been permitted to go on in the parish of St. Mary Church which he, as a parishioner, felt he had a perfect right to protest against. After a lengthened statement of his views, embodying the foregoing particulars, Mr. Gladstone delivered in a formal notice to the Bench, disputing the validity of the rate, in the following terms:—

That the business of the meeting at which the said rate is alleged to have been granted, was not conducted in a legal manner, and the said rate was not legally granted. That the notice calling the said meeting was insufficient and improper, inasmuch as it was not specific, and that statements contained in the said notice were untrue. That the rate is illegal in consequence of unfairness and irregularity of assessments, and by reason of certain persons and property in the said parish, liable to be rated, being entirely omitted from the said rate. That the rate is illegal and excessive, and in part retrospective, inasmuch as a considerable part of the amount to raise which the said rate is made, is averred to be required for, and is to be applied in and towards the repayment and liquidation of certain moneys alleged to have been borrowed on or about the year 1848, for the purpose of enlarging the churchyard and the purchase of ground for the purpose, which gave rise to the borrowing of the money so now intended to be in part repaid, were not in accordance with the Act of Parliament in that case made and provided, and the proceedings attending the same were not in accordance with the requirements of the said statutes, and the enlargement of the said churchyard was not then necessary.

In conclusion, Mr. Gladstone said he should commence actions against any parties who attempted to distrain upon him for the above Church-rate. The magistrates then decided that they had no jurisdiction, and the case was dismissed. Several of the members of the Anti-church-rate Association have also been applied to for payment, but have promptly refused, and are determined to protest to the last against such illegal proceedings as have been adopted by the Vicar. The general belief is, that so conscious is the Vicar of being in the wrong, that no further steps will be taken to enforce his unjust demands.

In the parish of St. Mary Arches, Exeter, the Church authorities have thought better of their intolerance. A rate of fourpence half-penny in the pound was carried some days since at a vestry meeting, by a majority of two. But, in order to prevent the inconvenience and unpleasantness of dividing the parish, it has been determined to raise the money by voluntary subscriptions.

At Willingham, in Cambridgeshire, there has recently been an exciting Church-rate contest. At a recent vestry meeting, a proposed rate was rejected by a considerable majority, and a poll was demanded.

During the interval its opponents held a spirited public meeting, which was very effective. At the polling the numbers were:—For the rate, 133; against it, 63; majority, 70. Thus ended the first Church-rate contest at Willingham.

A Correspondent at Tunbridge writes:—On Saturday last, the Churchwardens of this parish called a meeting to make a Church-rate. A rate of threepence in the pound was proposed, which would raise about £400. Mr. Wm. Baker immediately moved an amendment that no rate be made for twelve months, which was seconded by Mr. T. Stidolph, who said:—

I am a Churchman, as you all know, and love the Episcopal Church, but do not like the abuses. I have been a Sunday-school teacher for twenty years, so you will not say I am factious; but I must say that I detest Church-rates. It is a disgrace to our Church, and I hope you will have the good sense to do without it. I live, as you know, three miles from this town, where we have built a District Church, which we keep in repair, and carry on the worship of God, by voluntary contributions; we support willingly all the societies of our Church, and I do think it is a shame to call upon us to help support yours. If you carry your point we shall do as the Friends do. You will have to sell our goods. We will not pay, mind that. I do hope that you will raise the money amongst yourselves, which you are well able to do.

After a little desultory conversation, the chairman put the amendment, which was carried by 62 to 48; majority against the rate, 14. A poll was then demanded, which is fixed for the 15th, from 9 till 5 o'clock. We think this a great triumph, seeing we are so full of High-Churchmen here, who come for the sake of the *Free Grammar School*.

SECESSION OF A CLERGYMAN.—The Rev. George James Hill, M.A., who was appointed to the Rectory of Saltford, near Bath, early last year, has placed his resignation in the hands of the Bishop, and intimated his intention of joining the Church of Rome.

MR. CHAMBERS' CONVENT INQUIRY.—On Tuesday last, a large gathering of Roman Catholic noblemen and gentlemen took place at Crawley's Hotel, in Albemarle-street, in order to consider what measures should be adopted by the Roman Catholic body with respect to the Committee of Inquiry into convents recently appointed at the instance of Mr. T. Chambers. The meeting was a private one, and the chair was taken by the Hon. Charles Langdale, late M.P. for Knaresborough; and, after a warm debate of some three hours' duration, in which Lord Camoys, Lord E. Howard, Mr. Sergeant Bellasis, and other gentlemen took part, it was resolved to convene a public meeting of the Roman Catholic body at the Freemasons' Tavern, next Tuesday, for the purpose of giving expression to the feelings with which that body regard the assertion that they "view the pending inquiry with indifference."

ENFORCEMENT OF EASTER DUES.—The claim made for Easter-dues, by the parish-clerk of Barnard Castle, has been sustained in a jury-trial at the Durham Assizes. The case here decided presents no new feature of novelty. What the jury had to try was, the legality of the plaintiff's appointment, and his title to the emolument. These two points having been made out, there was no defence; the verdict was given against the repudiating Dissenter—a poor man named Snaith, sixty-two years of age, who said if the case went against him, and great expense was incurred, "there would be nothing for it but his going to prison." The parish-clerk in the case before us is but the nominal prosecutor—his employer, the incumbent, is the real aggressor; and we shall not be surprised if other clergymen in the district, encouraged by this decision, should attempt similar proceedings. It seems to us a monstrous scandal to religion, that the professors of one favoured creed should act so meanly, so unworthy of their position, as to seek alms from poorer brethren who choose another mode of worship, and defray its costs from their own means. But when we remember that the man who is here dragged to Durham for *fourpence*, is tried in sight of a cathedral whose bishop receives an *apostolic income* of upwards of £20,000 per annum, the case reads like a burning satire upon the religion of Him whose ministry was emphatically to the poor. It shocks all sense of propriety and justice. —*Newcastle Guardian*.

Religious Intelligence.

BOLTON.—The Rev. J. J. Owen, of Sabden, has accepted the cordial and unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Baptist Church meeting in Moor-lane Chapel, and will commence his labours March 26th.

HADLEIGH.—The Rev. J. Parnell Palmer, one of the Secretaries of the British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Jews, has accepted a most cordial invitation to become pastor of the church assembling in the Great Meeting, Hadleigh, Suffolk.

COLLUMPTON, DEVON.—The Rev. A. D. Salmon has resigned his charge of the Independent Church, Collumpton, and has accepted an invitation to succeed the Rev. John Gill, as travelling agent to the British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Jews.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS SERVICES are to be held every Sunday afternoon in the Temperance Hall. We understand that this is the result of the combined efforts of members of various congregations of Dissenters in this town, and we trust that much good may result from their exertions. —*Leicester Mercury*.

OXFORD.—On the evening of Thursday, Feb. 16th, a public service was held in George-street Chapel, in this city, in connexion with the recognition of the Rev. James Collier as pastor of the church assembling there. The service was commenced by the Rev. J. Rowland, of Henley, who offered prayer for the Divine

blessing; the Rev. W. Harris, of Wallingford, asked the usual questions; the Rev. J. A. James, of Birmingham, delivered an earnest and faithful address, first to the pastor and then to the people; and the Rev. J. Spence, M.A., of Preston, closed the services with prayer.

UNION CHAPEL, LEWISHAM.—On the evening of the 7th March, the friends of the Rev. Thomas Timpson assembled in the chapel, for the purpose of presenting to him a testimonial of their respect and esteem, with reference to his faithful pastorate of thirty years, and the important service he has rendered to religious literature by his pen. The chair was occupied by Joseph Maitland, of Walworth. Animated and appropriate addresses were delivered by the Revs. Messrs. Pulling, Lucy, Verrall, Russell, Baker, and Lister; and prayer was presented by the Rev. S. Hebditch, of Woolwich. The testimonial consisted of a service of plate, and Conybeare and Howson's "Life and Epistles of St. Paul," in two handsomely-bound volumes. The chairman, in presenting them to Mr. Timpson, congratulated him on the auspicious circumstances connected with the meeting. The rev. gentleman then, in an interesting speech, reviewed his long connexion with the church and congregation, referring with great emotion to the uninterrupted harmony which had existed between the pastor and the flock, and between him and the ministers in the county. The meeting gave great delight to all who attended it. The Rev. Henry Baker, of Summertown, near Oxford, having accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation from the church and congregation worshipping in the above chapel to become their pastor, intends to commence his labours there on the first Sabbath in the present month.

Correspondence.

THE FAILURE OF THE NEW REFORM BILL.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

"It is wonderful what good there is in History, what a blessing in knowing a little more about things that are than a Whig Leader."—COL. PERRONET THOMPSON.

DEAR SIR,—He must be of a very sanguine disposition who expects the Reform Bill will ever advance beyond its present stage. If it does not, Lord John's most ardent admirers must allow it to be a failure. Why has it failed? The one simple reason is, the bill obtained no support out of doors. A few aspirants to Parliament, seeking after a general election, were delighted with the bill as they would have been equally delighted with any bill which would hasten a dissolution of the present Parliament, but the people out of the Reform Club cared nothing what became of the bill, and therefore it failed. As it was with the Reform Bill of 1832, so it must be with any future Reform Bill—it must be carried by the people out of Parliament. No Parliament ever wished to change itself. A legislative body, intensely self-satisfied, is the definition of the House of Commons, and there are special reasons why this Parliament is desirous to keep alive as long as may be. It is a very young Parliament. It was a very expensive Parliament. The gentlemen who compose it paid very highly for the honour of writing M.P. after their names, and have not yet had of the bubble reputation their money's worth for their money. Moreover, at the opening of its career, there were certain votes given, not yet forgotten, which if not forgotten before next election will certainly be punished by consigning the givers of them to the obscurity from which they arose (some how or another) at the last election. Radicals, who as candidates pledged to vote for the ballot, but as M.P.'s voted against it. Fervent Free-traders at the hustings, who in Parliament refused to vote that free-trade was "wise, just, and beneficial." Furious Protectionists in canvassing, who as M.P.'s voted on the Maynooth question in an indescribable manner; gentlemen elected as Liberals, but who when elected gave an earnest support to the Tory Protectionists in their attempts to defeat the ministry on the Succession Duties Bill. Gentlemen who, uncertain if the Derby Ministry would keep in place or not, voted for the double house tax. All these gentlemen naturally wish to postpone as long as may be the period when they must render an account of their deeds. No wonder then that they should avail themselves of the plea, "It is not the time now," to urge Lord John to defer the bill for—as long as he possibly can. Now, had it been a good bill—really and truly a popular measure—the people would have raised their voices and the bill must have gone on. Why have they not done so? Because they felt it was not intended to increase and would not increase their power in Parliament. One great cause of the success of the bill of 1832 was the enthusiasm in its favour of the people in the towns whom it proposed to enfranchise. The bill of 1854 proposes only to enfranchise four towns. The new members are to be given to the counties, and it is a very difficult thing to get a strong, clear, and general expression of opinion from the counties. Had the bill proposed to make twenty, thirty, or forty large towns into Parliamentary boroughs, they would have raised a feeling in its favour, which would have been heard and felt. Those large towns and counties to whom it is proposed to give more members felt that, with each elector's right to vote limited to two members only, their power in Parliament would be lessened, not increased; and they all much prefer to remain as they are. The proposed extension of the right of voting in boroughs is fenced with so many restrictions and shows so ungenerous a spirit and so little confidence in the people—that they are careless to take what is so grudgingly offered. Besides, these men and the proposed new voters for the counties, and the clerks in offices, &c., at £100 per annum, with the results before them of twenty-one years experience of having votes without the power of voting as you like, feel that the proposed extension to them of political

power would only be a means of degrading and mortifying them—in short, a mockery, a delusion, and a snare. The present electors, who have the direct power over the members, are careless about a bill which does not contain the only thing they want, *the ballot*; and so, not wanted by Parliament, not cared for by the people, the Reform Bill of 1854 waits its final sentence of dismissal to the realms of the past, to be mentioned by those who write the history of our times as a signal instance of the truth of Roebuck's saying, "that there is no class which knows so little the wants and feelings of the people as professed politicians."

It must not be forgotten that the bill is just such a compromise as might have been looked for from a cabinet containing four of the chief supporters, and the same number of chief opponents, of the bill of 1832.

Lord John Russell having had one splendid success as a Reformer, has now had two signal failures. If he minds to try again and win back his reputation, let him pray that the bills of 1852 and 1854 may be forgotten, and let him, in 1855, bring out a bill with a £5 franchise for boroughs, and a £10 franchise for counties. Let him make two honest schedules disfranchising every corrupt and every nomination borough, without reference to any pedantic and arbitrary notion of the "relation of population to representation;" above all, let him give the vote by ballot, and there will be a bill which the whole people, from Caithness to Cornwall, and throughout Ireland, will as one man unmistakably demand.

Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

An EAST ANGLIAN.

6, Lower Belgrave-street, March 13, 1854.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Borough and County Police, against consolidation of, 3.
Capital Punishment, for abolition of, 1.
Education, for general system of, 1.
Fire Insurance Duty, for repeal of, 2.
Romish Chaplains in Gaols, against, 5.
Reformatory Institutions, in favour of, 3.
Maynooth Grant, for withdrawal of, 4.
Medical Officers (Navy), for improvement of, 6.
Medical Practitioners' Bill, in favour of, 11.
Oaths Bill, against, 36.
Paper Duty, for repeal of, 19.
Parliamentary Representation Bill, in favour of, 1.
Public Houses, for closing on Sunday, 50.
Registration of Assurances Bill, against, 1.
Settlement and Removal Bill, against, 9.
Stage Carriages Duty, for repeal of, 2.
Decimal Coinage, in favour of, 1.
Education (Scotland), for national system of, 1.
Episcopal and Capitular Estates Bill, against, 1.
Ocean Penny Postage, in favour of, 1.
Turkey, for withdrawal of English Ambassador from, 1.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Ministers' Money, (Ireland) Bill [second reading, Monday, March 20].

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Exchequer Bills (£1,750,000) Bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Marine Meeting Bill.

Exchequer Bills (£1,750,000) Bill.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Valuation (Ireland) Bill.

Highways (South Wales) Bill.

Marine Mutiny Bill.

Consolidated Fund (£8,000,000) Bill.

DEBATES.

SUCCESSION TO REAL ESTATE BILL.

This bill, introduced by Mr. Locke King, provided that intestate land should vest in administrators for the payment of debts; and that, after the payment of debts, it should be distributed equally among all the children.

On the motion for the second reading, on Wednesday, Sir John Pakington objected to the bill, on the ground that it was only the beginning of democratic encroachment on our institutions; and that it proposed a change, not only opposed to the spirit of our institutions, but to the feelings of the great bulk of the people. He also argued that it would lead to a subdivision of land. He moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

In the debate that ensued, Mr. Bright, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Mr. Bouverie, Mr. Vincent Scully, and Mr. Phinn, spoke on behalf of the bill. They urged the unfairness of assailing the bill by the objection that it would lead to ulterior measures. At present the bulk of the land is kept in the hands of great families, and a labourer who has saved enough to begin farming cannot find a farm: the land ought to be set free. With respect to subdivision, in the county of Kent, where gravel-kind exists, there is not more subdivision than elsewhere. Is the existing law just or unjust?—that is the question. The bill would sweeten the bread of English families, and prevent that jarring, discontent, and bad feeling, which are produced by the present law.

Mr. Bright, as usual, argued the subject with great force and directness. Sir J. Pakington, he remarked, saw no stopping-place between the law of primogeniture in this country and the compulsory division of land in France. Now, if he (Mr. Bright) were asked whether he approved the forced subdivision of land in France, he should say it was extremely difficult to say which was the worse, the law of France or the law of England, and that he could neither vote for one nor the other. (Hear, hear.) Both were contrary to all moral and economical principles. The true principle, both in regard to land and to personal property, was to give unlimited freedom to the testator to make a will as he pleased; but, if he failed to make a will, the law ought then to come in and make such a distribution as the law would say a parent would make if he were under the influence of just feelings with regard to his

family. The right hon. gentleman said public opinion was against this bill; but the right hon. gentleman's "public opinion" was very much confined to territorial proprietors and the aristocratic classes, on the lowest steps of whose ladder the right hon. gentleman had succeeded in placing himself. Those classes feared the dispersion of their estates and the diminution of their family influence; but if it were possible to ascertain the feeling of the classes between that to which he had alluded and what he would call the "wages class," an overwhelming majority would be found in favour of the present bill. (Hear.) There was no circumstance so unfavourable to the bulk of the labouring population as the concentration of vast landed estates, through successive generations, in particular families.

Lord LOVAINE said, the speech the House had just heard was a very natural one, coming from an hon. member who, in his speeches elsewhere, had affirmed his predilections for a different state of Government—namely, a republic.

Mr. BRIGHT: No man living has ever heard me say anything of the kind, and I must protest against sentiments being attributed to me that I never uttered. (Cheers.)

Lord LOVAINE would make every apology to the hon. gentleman, but he only stated what he saw in the newspapers. [Mr. BRIGHT: Yes; the *Standard*.] No; in reports of speeches professed to be made in Manchester or Liverpool.

Mr. MONCKTON MILNES related the following illustration of the law:—In the West Riding of Yorkshire, a gentleman, who had made a large fortune in manufactures, invested it to a considerable extent in land. This gentleman died suddenly, and in a tragical manner, and the whole of his property went to the eldest son. The eldest son said it would be unjust that he should take it all, and that such was not the intention of his father, and he divided the whole of the landed property equally among his brothers and sisters. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BOUVERIE said, he believed that the history of this country showed that many of the greatest men whose career adorned its pages had been younger sons—Clarendon, Marlborough, both the Foxes, both the Pitts, Burke, Erskine, Wellington, his noble friend (Lord John Russell), and the right hon. gentleman below him (Mr. Gladstone), were all younger sons. It was related of Lord Buchan, the elder brother of the great Lord Erskine, that, when some one talked to him of his brother's eminence, Lord Buchan said, "Why, sir, the eminence of my brother is entirely owing to me." The gentleman replied, "How is that?" "I did not know that you had anything to do with it." "Oh, yes," said Lord Buchan, "I was the making of him. When he was a young man he asked me for a small allowance to enable him to live. I absolutely refused to give him a single farthing, and it is in consequence of that refusal that he has risen to eminence. (Laughter.)

On the other side, Lord LOVAINE, Sir FREDERICK THESIGER, Mr. W. O. STANLEY, Mr. PACEY, Mr. INGHAM, Mr. HENLEY, and Mr. DRUMMOND, supported the amendment, and enforced the views of Sir John Pakington.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL also took that side. The principle which the bill seemed to involve, Lord John said, must be considered. The law ought to conform in cases of intestacy to the general practice of families; and that practice, among rich and poor, was to leave their land to the eldest sons. The law ought to follow that rule. The argument that the difference between land and personalty is a mere feudal notion, and that, as personalty is divided, so land should be divided, is unsound. The State is not in the least interested whether a man leaves £100 among ten sons equally, or whether he leaves £90 to the eldest, and £10 among the rest; but if land to the value of £100 be divided among ten sons, the State is interested, because, as the property could not be managed as it had been, the State would be a loser. Would it be fair, where a man of small property, by making sacrifices, had educated one son for the law, and placed another in the army, and died intestate, for them to come in and share with the third? Then it would be difficult for the holders of small freehold properties to prove their titles, if challenged by younger brothers under this bill. It was said the bill should be argued on its merits: would it act equitably or with injustice? What a platform they would raise for the alteration of the law, if they declared, by adopting this bill, that the rule of justice requires the division of landed property among all the children! As regards the interests of the State, Lord John entirely believed that the contemplated subdivision would be unjust and mischievous.

Mr. DISRAELI observed, that upon the difference between real and personal property our whole social system is constructed. One of the Houses of Parliament, the material administration of justice, and the defence of the country, are dependent upon the tenure of land. Public liberty could not be maintained unless we had large properties around which to rally.

Mr. Locke King said, in reply, that the bill would not affect the higher classes, because their estates are so settled that no bill is requisite, but it would relieve the middle and lower classes from the anomalies and injustice to which they are now exposed. We live in democratic times, and he hoped it would no longer be held as a fundamental principle of our position, that we should only legislate for a few families.

On a division, the bill was thrown out by 203 to 82.

MANNING THE NAVY.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, in moving for a return of the number of men borne in the navy for the month of February—distinguishing coast-guardmen, pensioners, marines, and able seamen—expressed some apprehensions as to the adequate manning of the Baltic fleet. Government should compete with the merchant service. The pay of the seamen in the navy is greater than that in the merchant

service, but the seamen in the latter have three months' liberty. To obtain good seamen—men who could go aloft and fight as our seamen fought at St. Vincent's, the Nile, and Trafalgar—something should be offered of more value than three months' liberty. He thought £500,000 might be obtained for that purpose by postponing some of the ordnance and miscellaneous estimates.

The Earl of ABERDEEN said, of course there could be no objection to furnishing the returns. But he objected to the implication of Lord Ellenborough's remarks, that the Baltic fleet is inadequately manned. On the contrary, upon testimony he respected even more than that of his noble friend, he was bound to say that the fleet is adequately manned. Besides, there is not one pressed man on board; the galls have not been swept to man the fleet; and though there are landmen on board, the proportion is not greater than in former times. This fleet is as well manned and equipped as any fleet ever was at the commencement of a war. He could not see the utility of making these observations, even if they were correct, which they are not; or how they are to advance the service Lord Ellenborough is so anxious about.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH said, his only object was to expose to the Government that which seemed to him a state of danger.

THE REFORM BILL.

Earl GREY, in moving for returns relating to the Reform Bill, observed that he had heard of the postponement of the bill with the greatest satisfaction. Government had yielded to a necessity to which it was their duty to yield. The measure ought not to be brought forward again, unless the objection which now stood in its way were removed. Government should be left as free as possible to conduct the war; and great injury would result to the public service if they needlessly exposed themselves to a Parliamentary defeat. Delay would give opportunity for Parliament to maturely reconsider the subject. All the leading provisions of the measure proposed in 1831 had been forty years under consideration; but the present measure is imperfectly understood. He trusted the measure would be still further deferred.

The Earl of ABERDEEN said, there was no objection to producing the returns. He always heard Lord Grey speak with pleasure, but on the present occasion he had exceeded the bounds of strict regularity in discussing in that House whether a measure in the other House should be read on one day or another. He repeated the substance of the reply he gave to Lord Derby last week; but he declined to make a positive pledge that the intention of moving the second reading on the 27th of April would be irrevocably executed on that day. That would depend upon what appeared most consistent with the interests of the country, "and with a due regard to our own honour."

Lord GREY was perfectly satisfied with that reply.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Earl of HARROWBY, in moving for returns, called attention to the state of the country with respect to sanitary arrangements; pointing out that the renewed attack of the cholera is approaching, while our legislation remains as it was in 1849. He enlarged on the necessity of meeting the attack by decided measures.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY enforced these views, by giving a vivid description of the state of various towns as described by the Health Inspectors last summer.

Earl GRANVILLE said, Government had continued for another six months the extraordinary powers granted to the Board of Health last summer. Lord Palmerston is considering the whole subject, and at this moment is seeking what further powers it will be advisable for Government to grant to the Board of Health that will not clash with local authorities.

MINISTERS' MONEY (IRELAND.)

In the House of Commons, on Thursday, Mr. FAOAN moved a resolution, that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider the law relating to the rate called "Ministers' money" in Ireland, with the view to repeal the same, and to provide a substitute out of the revenues of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, as a provision for the Protestant ministers in certain corporate towns in Ireland. Denouncing this tax as unjust and odious, he replied to the objections which he anticipated would be offered to his motion. The first, he said, was, that he proposed to saddle this encumbrance upon the funds of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, which were insufficient to meet the ordinary demands upon them; whereas, he insisted that these funds, even without the sale of perpetuities, were amply sufficient for the purpose. The second objection was, that the tax was the property of the Established Church, and ought not to be made over as a donation to the owners of property. But this was an argument, he observed, which might have been urged against the Church Temporalities Act, and all the other changes in the law affecting the property of the Church. This tax is raised upon the houses in eight towns in Ireland, for the support of Protestant clergymen. It falls heavily on the Roman Catholics, as they form the greater part of the population.

Mr. HUMS seconded the motion. Ever since he entered the walls of the House this had been one of the constant themes of complaint on the part of the Roman Catholics of Ireland. The existence of Church-rates and ministers' money in Ireland depended entirely on the same principles, and ought to have been abolished at the same time. He thought, if ever there had been a means through which religion had been made the cause of disunion in a country, the present grievance was one.

Sir J. YOUNG said, the grievances complained of with reference to this rate were admitted on all hands; the reason why they had remained without remedy was, that while, on the one hand, the parties subject to the rate would be content with nothing short of its

entire removal, on the other, the amount, though only about £15,000 a-year, could not be taken from the Church without violating the rights of property. Sir John contended that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners lack funds for the purpose proposed. They are bound by the Church Temporalities Act to perform certain things; and a reference to their very last report shows that they have no surplus funds. He desired to take a middle course. He submitted, that after next October all houses rated at and under £10 in each town, should be totally exempted from ministers' money; that no house built in future should be liable to the tax; that means should be taken to ascertain what houses and tenements had hitherto been liable to the tax, and the amount they had paid, with the view of providing that they should continue liable to the payment of that amount, and no more. He knew it might be said that this was not a very extensive proposal, but, as one main ground of complaint against the tax was the collisions which it occasioned between the clergy and the people, he would give the House an idea of the number of persons who would be withdrawn from these unseemly contests. By his proposal, 3-7ths of the houses in Dublin would be exempted from the tax; in Cork, 4 houses out of 5; in Clonmel, 8 out of 9; in Drogheda, 10 out of 11; in Kilkenny, 10 out of 13; in Kinsale, 6 out of 7; in Limerick, 13 out of 14; and in Waterford, 9 out of 12. The great mass of the Roman Catholics, who constituted the poorer part of the population, would thus be relieved from the tax, which would only be applicable to persons who were in comparatively easy and comfortable circumstances. It must be remembered, that persons had taken their houses subject to this tax, and to abolish it entirely, would, in fact, be only making a present of the amount to the owners of the property. It was complained that there was at present an unequal and unfair valuation; and that, in consequence of houses falling into decay, they were subject to a higher tax than ought to be imposed upon them. This complaint would, he thought, be remedied by his proposal to exempt houses under the value of £10 a year. It was also complained that, under the present system, the clergy were compelled to resort to harsh and offensive measures in order to obtain the means of subsistence. Now, he proposed that the clergy should not in future have anything to do with the collection of this tax, but that the money should be paid to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, by whom it would be distributed to the clergy. He put this proposal forward as a compromise.

Lord PALMERSTON seconded the amendment.

Mr. HADFIELD thought it was evident that the right hon. gentlemen did not propose a compromise with regard to this paltry sum without considerable pain. Five-sixths of the population of Ireland were separatists from the Established Church, and the Protestant Dissenters, including the Presbyterians, were alone equal in number to the members of that Church. The amount of the revenues of the Established Church of Ireland, according to the hon. member for Cork, was £800,000 a year, and yet it was now proposed to make a compromise for £15,000 a year, as if that luxurious church, which was gorged with wealth, could not afford the loss of so small a sum. This, it must be remembered, was not a question of property, but of a tax which was levied principally upon Roman Catholics, in order to add to the wealth of a rich establishment. In 1817 or 1848 Dr. Higin, the present Bishop of Derry, who was then Dean of Limerick, expressed his opinion that this burden ought to be placed on the funds in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, from which provision should be made for those of the clergy whose misfortune it was to have incomes depending in whole or in part upon ministers' money. There was no more earnest Protestant than himself (Mr. Hadfield); but, as a Protestant, one of his first wishes was to do justice to the Roman Catholic population of Ireland. Now, he would ask hon. gentlemen if they thought Christianity was promoted by the tax? (Hear, hear.) Were they advancing the cause of Christianity by taxing Roman Catholics to support the Protestant religion? He considered that it was unjust and impious to compel a man, by the force of law and against his will, to pay for the maintenance of principles which he did not profess to believe. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MAGUIRE likewise counselled the rejection of the proposition, and entered into very long details to show the injustice of the tax and the insufficiency of the compromise.

Mr. CROSSLEY said, that if it was wished to spread the true principles of Christianity in Ireland, this must be done as Christ did it, and as he directed it should be done. Christ told his disciples to go without scrip and without purse, and preach the Gospel to every creature, and that his kingdom was one, not of force, but of love. If, however, bad feelings were excited by the forcible extortion of this ministers' money, how could people be induced to come and hear this Gospel of love? He should give his vote with all his heart for the motion of the hon member for Cork (Mr. W. Fagan).

Mr. NAPIER referred to the origin of the ministers' money, in the reign of Charles II., and argued that the rate was then fixed by the Crown upon certain Irish properties, of which it was the absolute owner, as a permanent provision for the Protestant Church. It could not, therefore, now be called a tax, but was a property indefeasibly appertaining to that Church. The bill proposed by the Secretary for Ireland trenchanted upon the rights of the Protestant clergy, but, for the sake of peace, he was willing to accept it.

Mr. FITZGERALD supported the motion.

After a few words from Mr. POTTER and Mr. COWAN, the House divided—

For the amendment.....	103
Against.....	88
Majority.....	—16

The result was received with cheering by the majority.

On Friday night, the House having, in accordance with the resolution of the previous evening, resolved itself into committee to consider the acts relating to ministers' money, Sir J. YOUNG proposed a resolution for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to Church Temporalities in Ireland.

Mr. FAGAN moved, as an amendment, to substitute the following:—"That it is expedient to bring in a bill for the total abolition of ministers' money, and for providing a substitute out of the ecclesiastical revenues of Ireland." He had no wish to act in a factious spirit as regarded the present Government, but after the division of last night he felt fully justified in proposing this amendment and pressing it to a division. (Cheers, and cries of "Divide, divide!")

Mr. MIALI urged upon the Government the advisability of withdrawing a bill which the vote of the previous night certainly proved would be unpalatable to a great body of their own supporters. It was obvious that this measure, which was intended to remove a grievance of which the Roman Catholics of Ireland complained, would be received with anything but satisfaction by them. (Hear, hear.) In all questions of importance arising out of religious convictions, it was utterly futile to propose a compromise (hear, hear); and it always happened that such compromises only tended to irritate both the party claiming and the party giving the relief. (Hear.) He thought it would be generous in this case for Government to make a concession. He understood that the great difficulty of settling this question, in which a sum of £15,000 a-year was concerned, consisted in the principle of the inviolability of Church property. He earnestly submitted the propriety of withdrawing a bill which had not been called for by any parties, and which could not give satisfaction.

Mr. BRIGHT concurred with what had fallen from the hon. member for Rochdale—that in a question of this nature, which was not in itself a very large one, Government ought to pay some deference to the division which took place last night. (Hear, hear.) If this had been an open question, as far as regarded the Government themselves, he felt there could be no doubt that the motion of the hon. member for Cork (Mr. Fagan) would have been carried last night. Those who opposed it sat upon the other side of the house, and he felt that Government ought now to make some concession in the matter. He did not speak as a Dissenter personally opposed to the Established Church; but if he were anxious that the Established Church of Ireland, as a religious and Protestant, and not as a political institution, should increase its influence in that country, he should be extremely desirous that it should be settled, not upon the basis of an unsatisfactory compromise, but in such a manner that no Roman Catholic hereafter could object to it, and say he had not had full justice done to him. (Hear, hear.) Government, if he understood them rightly, proposed to take away a certain portion of the tax, and the only difference between Government and his hon. friend the member for Cork was, that his hon. friend wished to take it away altogether. He would ask if it was worth while, in connexion with the Established and Protestant Church of Ireland, to insist upon a settlement of the question which would only be temporary, and not permanent, and which, in all succeeding Parliaments, they would find some Irish member ready to bring before the House? Would it not be much more preferable to set the question at rest altogether? In the last seven years the subject had undergone something like ten discussions, and nearly a whole session of Parliament had been occupied with the matter. (A laugh.) He appealed most strongly to the Secretary for Ireland to go a little further than he had done last night, and agree to the abolition of this tax.

The committee then divided:—

For Sir J. Young's bill.....	136
For the amendment.....	93
Majority.....	—43

Mr. HADFIELD said he should oppose the bill of the right hon. baronet in every stage of its progress. Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

CHRISTIANITY IN THE EAST.

In the House of Lords, on Friday night, the Earl of SHAFTESBURY moved for certain papers connected with the amount of religious liberty enjoyed by Christians in Turkey, and called the attention of the House to that passage in the recent manifesto of the Emperor of Russia which accused England and France of siding with the enemies of Christianity and the Orthodox faith. He (Lord Shaftesbury) would undertake to prove, that of late years Turkey had done everything she could to advance, and Russia everything she could to suppress, the progress of Protestant Christianity throughout the world (hear, hear); and it was his firm belief that, from the very commencement of the present negotiations, there had not been, on the part of Russia, one atom or particle of sincerity. He did not believe that, if his noble friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had been an angel of light, he could have brought matters to a more favourable issue than that to which they had at present arrived; for there was but one dominant notion in the mind of the Emperor, and that was one of aggrandizement and absolute dominion. Such a notion was evident, not only from his haughty assumption of protector of the Asiatic Church, but also from his imperious rejection of the guarantees that were suggested to him by the mediation of the four great Powers. That this desire of aggression on the part of Russia was evident after the publication of the Menschikoff Note the subsequent despatches of our own Government proved—despatches which, he could not help saying, conferred much honour upon Government, and added not only to the character but to the literature of our country. (Cheers.) It was not a question whether they would or would not

uphold an empire which was said to be a Mussulman empire, and in its dotage; but the question was, whether they would maintain the rights and independence of a weaker Power against the aggressions of a stronger; and whether they would put a stop to the encroachments of an ambitious and aggressive Power, that seemed disposed to darken all that was light, and to subjugate all that was free among the nations of mankind? Perhaps the House would permit him to describe, in a few words, the gradual progress of wealth, intelligence, and civilization during the last twenty years among the Christians of Turkey? He did not deny that there had been occasional outbreaks of Mussulman bigotry; but they had been local, not general—the result of the agitation of some ill-conditioned fanatic, and not authorised by the Government. The truth was, that the great enemy of the Christian in these provinces was not the Turk but the Christian himself. (Hear.) A very large proportion of the spoliation, the torture, and the imprisonment that took place was stimulated by Christian agents of the Greek priesthood, with the view of obtaining domination over the Greek laity. (Hear.) During the last twenty years the diffusion of the Bible in Turkey had been almost incredible. Now, whatever might be the private opinions of any individual with regard to the Bible, nobody would deny this—that the diffusion of the Bible had ever been the precursor of civilisation and free institutions. (Hear.) Wherever the Bible had free course, and was freely admitted into the minds of men, there was sure to follow a knowledge of Christianity, the development of civilisation, and high aspirations after liberty. It had been stated by Mr. LAYARD, in the House of Commons, and the statement was confirmed by the American missionaries, that there were more than forty towns and villages in Turkey in which there were distinct congregations of Protestant seceders from the Greek Church. There were, moreover, among the Armenians, both in the capital and the interior, many who were heartily disposed to the Reformation. Twenty-five years ago not a single Protestant seceder could be found among the natives of the country, and now there were not less than sixty-five regular Protestant teachers in Turkey, and fourteen schools in Constantinople alone. (Hear.) The consequence of all this was, that there had been a great increase in wealth and intelligence among the Greek Christians, and the desire among the laity to emancipate themselves from the thralldom of the priesthood, though of course much opposed, continued to be successful. Now to what was all this great movement to be ascribed? His reply was—to the unprecedented liberality of the Turkish system. Free scope was there allowed to every religious movement, and no hindrance was experienced, except from the Greek and Armenian superior clergy. Throughout Turkey associations for religious purposes were openly recognised and permitted. Printing presses existed in Constantinople, Bucharest, and other large towns, where the Scriptures were printed in every Oriental tongue, including the Turkish. (Hear, hear.) There were forty depôts for the sale of the Bible in Turkey, and at this moment there were *colporteurs* and native agents in great numbers engaged in preaching and perambulating every province, and circulating the Scriptures without opposition. (Hear.) Now, let the House contrast this with what was done in Russia, and from that infer what they had to expect in the Turkish dominions if they fell under the rule of the Czar. No association was allowed in Russia for religious purposes; no printing presses were permitted for printing the Bible in modern Russ; and no versions of the Scriptures were allowed to be imported into Russia except those that were in English, French, Italian, and German. Not a single copy of the Bible in modern Russ, the only language which the people understood, was allowed to be in circulation. This was forbidden under the severest penalties, and it was believed that not a copy of the Scriptures had been printed in Russia in the language of the people since 1823. (Hear.) The Emperor of Russia had within his dominions a population of nearly 2,000,000 Hebrews, but he did not permit to pass his frontiers for the use of these people a single copy of the Scriptures in Hebrew. He was told that the Hebrew Bible was even more resisted than the Scriptures in modern Russ. Nor had the Emperor of Russia been more liberal towards missions—not missions, let it be remarked, to disturb the Greek Church, but missions to the wild and ignorant heathen of his own dominions—the outskirting provinces of his own empire, where the people were sunk in idolatry and the grossest darkness. Till this hour no mission, even from the Greek Church had been sent among these heathens in the wilds and steppes of Russia. How methodical, how systematic did he not show himself in all this? (Hear.) The Moravian brethren laboured many years among the Calmuc Tartars between the Black and Caspian Seas. In 1823 about 300 converts had been gathered together, but the missionaries were forbidden to baptize any one of them, on the ground of an old existing law, "that no heathen under Russian sway shall be converted to Christianity and baptized but by the Russian Greek clergy." This mission was therefore abandoned in the next year—viz., 1824. The Scottish Missionary Society began a mission in Russian Tartary in 1802. Their operations were widely extended in 1823. A Mahomedan convert of high standing was baptized by the missionaries, upon which a series of vexatious restrictions and persecutions began on the part of the Government, which compelled that society to relinquish its operations, after more than twenty years labour and a large expenditure, just at the time in which they were reaping some fruit of their labours. The Basle Missionary Society commenced a mission among the Tartars on the confines of Persia, and laboured first in the Persian dominions. Meeting with opposition there, they removed into the Russian dominions about 1823, and continued for ten years, till they were ordered to quit the Russian empire; and the missionaries, to the number of eight or ten, removed into other fields of

labour. The London Missionary Society undertook a mission in Siberia; on the frontiers of Chinese Tartary. They were countenanced by the Emperor Alexander, and joined by several Russian missionaries. But, in the year 1841, after twenty years' expense and labour, this mission was suppressed by an order from the Russian synod, the reason given being, "that the mission, in relation to that form of Christianity already established in the Russian empire, did not coincide with the views of the Church and the Government." In contrast with these, it must be stated that the Turkish Government had not only given full liberty to Christian missionaries of Europe and America, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, to carry on their operations to any extent, by preaching, by the circulation of the Scriptures, and by extensive printing establishments, by the issue of edicts of toleration, which protected every subject in the exercise of that religion which he might conscientiously profess. He had nothing to do with the motives which actuated those Powers, whether it was religious bigotry on the part of the Russians, or indifference on the part of the Turks. All he had to do with was the results. (Hear, hear.) What, then, was the issue? A great development of knowledge and liberal sentiment, enlarged hope and aspirations of the Christian population; redoubled violence and persecutions by the clergy against the laity, backed by the Russian consuls. He would say a few words upon the manner in which Russia had exerted its influence in the Greek church. The House should bear in mind that the authority in that church possessed civil as well as ecclesiastical powers—acting, indeed, to a certain degree, as civil magistrates. In relation to this, Mr. Consul Wood, in one of his despatches, spoke of the cruelty and intrigues of the Greek priests, who, said he, were instigated by the Russian consul-general. So again Mr. Wellesley wrote in 1846 to the foreign minister, complaining of the injuries inflicted upon, and the hardships endured by, Greeks, through the persecutions of their own church. Yet this was the state of things which the Emperor of Russia was desirous of introducing and maintaining in Turkey. The endeavours of Russia could not be mistaken; they were traceable step by step through a series of years. In 1845, the ambassador at Constantinople wrote to Lord Aberdeen, stating that the efforts of the Consul-General of Russia—who, by the way, complained of persons seceding from the Greek church—had, in conjunction with the acts of the Greek priesthood, led to certain consequences. To this Lord Aberdeen very properly replied that, if the Russian consul complained of the effects of the teachings of the missionaries, he ought to abate somewhat his own religious zeal. On a subsequent occasion, Lord Aberdeen expressly stated that remonstrances must be made against these religious persecutions. In September, 1846, Lord Palmerston took office, and Mr. Wellesley wrote to his lordship, detailing the atrocities perpetrated by Greek against Greek. It was true, said Mr. Wellesley, that Sir S. Canning had obtained a promise from the Greek patriarch that the penalties of excommunication should not affect the civil rights of parties, but that promise was constantly violated. After this time Lord Cowley obtained from the Turkish Ministry a Vizierial edict of toleration, which was forwarded to Lord Palmerston, by whom a copy was laid before the late Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London. Of this document, the latter prelate spoke in terms of high approval, saying that it was a full concession of their rights to all denominations of Protestants. When was such a document obtained from Russia? (Hear, hear.) A circumstance which happened in the latter end of 1846 was too important to be passed over. The authorities of the Greek Church cited a large number of persons to appear before the patriarch, and they did so appear one by one. Those who would not give in their adhesion to certain views then advanced, were treated with the greatest severity. Under the measures then taken, many Christian women and children were put in a state of excommunication; bakers were prohibited from selling them bread, and water-carriers were forbidden from giving them water. At that moment, when matters had reached their height, support came to them from a quarter from which perhaps but little was expected. Redschid Pacha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, summoned the patriarch before him, told him that liberty of conscience was the rule of the empire, and that he must desist from the course which he had been pursuing. He (the Earl of Shaftesbury) would here ask the House to permit him to turn from his main object to say a few words in praise of the noble lord who represented this country at Constantinople. Mr. White, one of the missionaries who had been in Turkey, had said of the noble lord that it mattered not who was the victim of persecution; for, be he who he might, the noble philanthropist was always ready to fly to his relief. To his exertions many of the measures which had for their object the alleviation of the condition of the inhabitants of Turkey were to be traced. (Hear.) Nor did his efforts cease until he had obtained a firman from the Turkish Government, whereby religious liberty was effectively secured. Up to the time of which he was now speaking, the various edicts which had been obtained were Vizierial edicts; the measure to which he now referred was an Imperial edict, under the sign-manual of the Sultan Abdul-Medjid himself. He begged the attention of the House to the contents of this firman, the terms of which were as complete as it was possible for them to be. It ran thus:—

"To my Vizier, Mohammed Pacha, Prefect of Police in Constantinople, when this sublime and august mandate reaches you, let it be known that hitherto those of my Christian subjects who have embraced the Protestant faith have suffered much inconvenience and distress. But in necessary accordance with my imperial compassion, which is the support of all, and which is manifested to all classes of my subjects, it is contrary to my imperial pleasure that any one class of them should be exposed to

suffering. As, therefore, by reason of their faith, the above-mentioned are already a separate community, it is my royal compassionate will that, for the facilitating the conducting of their affairs, and that they may obtain ease, and quiet, and safety, a faithful and trustworthy person from among themselves, and by their own selection, should be appointed, with the title Agent of the Protestants, and that he should be in relations with the Prefecture of Police. You will not permit anything to be required of them, in the name of fee, or on other pretences, for marriage licenses or registration. You will see to it, that, like other communities of the empire, in all their affairs, such as procuring cemeteries and places of worship, they should have every facility and every needed assistance. You will not permit that any of the other communities shall in any way interfere with their edifices, or with their worldly matters or concerns, or, in short, with any of their affairs, either secular or religious; that thus they may be free to exercise the usages of their faith. And it is enjoined upon you not to allow them to be molested in any of these particulars, or in any others; and that all attention and perseverance be put in requisition to maintain them in quiet and security. And, in case of necessity, they shall be free to make representations regarding their affairs, through their agent, to the Sublime Porte.

This, then, was the whole secret of the movement of the Russian Emperor. He saw that the circulation of the Scriptures and the recognition of the rights of conscience which was going on in the Turkish provinces would lead to the recognition of civil rights and freedom. He could not place a *cordon sanitaire* along his frontier, and a thought occurred to him to demand that things should be remitted to the *status quo ab antiquum*. He (Lord Shaftesbury) believed that if this demand had been acceded to, all the advantages for which Sir S. Canning had so long and so well contended would have been swept away at one blow; he could find no reason for wonder at the imperial indignation which had been manifested against that ambassador, for by his acts 14,000,000 of the human race had been placed beyond the schemes of the Russian Emperor. He felt convinced that the Emperor had set his heart upon the object at which he now evidently aimed from the very beginning of his reign. His predecessor, Alexander, was a very different man; the Emperor Alexander did all in his power to curb the Greek church, the Emperor Nicholas to stimulate that church for the purposes of his own aggrandisement. Alexander went so far as to issue an order that all letters upon the business of the Bible societies should pass free, and that the Bibles should be conveyed without cost. In addition to this he gave a sum of 15,000 roubles to the Bible societies. He formed the Moscow Bible Society, and announced it in this remarkable passage:—

I consider the establishment of Bible Societies in Russia, in most parts of Europe, and in other parts of the globe, and the very great progress these institutions have made in disseminating the Word of God, not merely among Christians, but also among heathens and Mahomedans, as a peculiar display of the mercy and grace of God to the human race. On this account, I have taken on myself the denomination of a member of the Russian Bible Society, and I will render it every possible assistance in order that the beneficent light of revelation may be shed among all nations subject to my sceptre.

He died, and in 1826 the Emperor Nicholas ascended the throne, and what did he do? He suppressed, by ukase, the Russian Bible Society with all its branches, suppressed every privilege granted to religious societies, and brought back the night of the human intellect and the human heart that he seemed to prize so dearly. Had Turkey done anything of the sort? Had she not in twenty years done more than Russia in the famous 900 years that the Emperor vaunted as the period of alliance between the Slavonic nations and the Greek communion? One thing was evident—that if the Sultan had been less liberal towards freedom of religion and the rights of conscience there would have been no Menchikoff note, and no invasion. (Hear, hear.) But, though these were not the matters for which they undertook the war, they might rejoice that they were not engaged in upholding a state of things adverse to all amelioration, and subversive of all liberty and truth. He trusted that out of their present policy they might extract some good to be felt to the latest generations. He trusted—nay, he was sure—that his noble friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would complete what, in his despatches, he had so admirably begun, and support Lord Stratford in the largest demands for the civil and religious rights of the Christians in the Ottoman empire. Seeing that they had not entered on this war in any spirit of ambition, covetousness, or pride, but for the maintenance of great principles which concerned alike the nations of mankind, and for their own defence, let them not fear the issue, but, offering a humble and hearty prayer to Almighty God, implore Him to bless their arms with success and a speedy peace in this just and inevitable quarrel. (Cheers.)

The Earl of CLARENDON cordially congratulated Lord Shaftesbury on the substance of the manner and the opportuneness of his speech. On that subject the noble lord could speak with especial authority, for his whole life had been devoted to the diffusion of the knowledge and attendant blessings of Christianity. He thought that he had stigmatised the Russian manifesto as it deserved. War was an unmitigated evil, but, if anything could aggravate its misery, it was to invest it with a religious character. This last atrocity was now attempted by Russia, which was endeavouring to mask aggression by religious pretext. The attempt had, however, signally failed; not even in Russia could any well-informed man suppose that the religion of the Greek subjects of the Porte was exposed to any danger. He believed the response to the religious manifestos of the Emperor had been "feeble and faint," because there was an evident want of truth in them. There had been a remarkable absence of any religious demonstration throughout the last twelve months in Turkey. There had been a national spirit evinced, and a brave determination on the part of the Turks to resist at all hazards the invasion of their liberties; but

those manifestos and exciting appeals which had been more addressed to the Greek subjects of the Porte even than to the Russians, those agents who had been among the Greek subjects inciting them to revolt, that enrolment of 3,000 subjects of the Porte in Wallachia for the purpose of bearing arms against their legitimate sovereign—all these were nothing but a servile copy of the course pursued by all revolutionists and propagandists, whose acts the Emperor was always denouncing as the greatest political crimes, and for whose discomfiture he was perpetually praying. Lord Clarendon then described the scope and objects of the contest in which they were about to engage:—

We are about to engage in a contest in support of the principles of justice and of sound policy; we are about to prevent the pernicious example being given of a weak State being overwhelmed by a powerful neighbour; we are about to prevent the unjust interpretation of a treaty being supported by violence; we are about to prevent the territorial limits established by treaty, and the equilibrium of Europe from being violently disturbed; and I hope, as my noble friend stated, that we shall also put a stop upon that blasting influence which has deprived more than one country of Europe—indeed, I may say, so large a portion of Europe, of its freedom of action—an influence which is always exerted to check that progress which is essential to the welfare of nations—and an influence, moreover, which, by stigmatising as revolutionary, and by checking all those improvements which Governments have been willing to give, and the people being fit to receive were entitled to expect, has encouraged disloyalty and discontent, and has so operated that Russian influence has really served the cause of revolution. (Hear, hear.)

It appeared from the papers already produced, that by decrees of the Sultan last year he proclaimed his earnest wish and fervent desire that all classes of his subjects should be perfectly at ease with respect to religious and spiritual matters. He further said, that he was determined that the concessions which were made to Protestants should for ever remain inviolate. (Hear, hear.) It was only last year, that the Sultan gave a large piece of land to be used as a burying-ground for the Christian community, with liberty to the Protestants to erect a chapel and to perform divine service there. Lord Clarendon then read the following despatch from Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, received that afternoon, dated, "Constantinople, February 25." It was as follows:—

"I have much satisfaction in reporting to your lordship that the firman for establishing Christian evidence on an equality with Mussulman, throughout the Turkish empire, is complete (hear, hear), and that it received the Sultan's sanction shortly before I had the honour to receive your lordship's instructions relating to the question, which it has now settled once for all on a broad and firm basis. (Hear.) I have received a copy of it from the Porte. No time will be lost in promulgating it, and I propose to send your lordship a translation of it by the Trieste steam-packet, which goes to sea the day after to-morrow. I have reason to hope that this great act of long withheld justice will be followed by other proofs of the Sultan's comprehensive beneficence, and of the improved spirit prevailing among his Mahomedan subjects. It is my ardent wish that the Christian and other non-Mussulman classes of the population of this empire may duly appreciate the benefit conferred upon them, and justify, by their peaceful and loyal behaviour, the increasing good will manifested towards them by the Sultan and his Government. The *haratch* is no longer levied in a manner vexatious to individuals, but it is an unjust and degrading tax, for the complete abolition of which I shall continue to employ my strenuous exertions." (Loud cries of "Hear, hear!")

With reference to what the Sultan had already done, and to what he thought there was evidence of his intention to do, he could not omit that opportunity of expressing his deep regret at the movement which had taken place upon the part of the Greeks:—

I admit that great civil reforms are still necessary, and that the Greeks have much to complain of; but I am perfectly convinced that it is not by insurrection that anything good or solid can be accomplished. I am perfectly sure that it is not by idle dreams of a Byzantine empire—that it is not by playing the game while abhorring the dominion of Russia, that those reforms are to be accomplished; that it is not by thwarting, but by confiding in the Four Powers, that those reforms are to be obtained. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, I will say that the Four Powers who are now engaged in this question, and who are determined to uphold the Ottoman empire, would ill perform their duty or understand the true character of their mission, and that they would be neglectful of what they owe not alone to Christianity, but to the best interests of the Sultan, if they did not take care to secure the civil as well as the religious rights and immunities of his Christian subjects, and to open up the way to Christian civilization, with all its progress and prosperity, which they are convinced will prove eventually the best shield for Turkey against foreign aggression, and her surest protection against internal revolution. (Hear.)

Earl GREY expressed his satisfaction at the despatch which his noble friend had read from Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, but observed that he believed the fact was, while they were paying these compliments to Turkish toleration, that they looked upon all Christian sects as dogs, and that between one kind of dog and another the Mussulman saw very little distinction. He was sure that none of their lordships who had read the papers upon the table could doubt that the Turks still continue to oppress their Christian subjects, and he much feared that the improvements which were taking place in the Administration of Turkey would be too late to effect their object. He concurred with his noble friend in thinking that the Christians of the western provinces were acting most unwisely in making themselves the tools and instruments of Russia; but at the same time allowances should be made for them, and it should be remembered what must be the feeling created in the bosoms of men by 400 years of unmitigated oppression and cruelty. He was most anxious, however, if an internal war between the Turks and the Greeks should rise into serious importance, that the armies of England should not be employed in coercing

the Christian subjects of Turkey to submit to the Government of the Sultan. (Hear, hear.) However mistaken those subjects might be—however unwise their conduct—still, looking at the circumstances of the case, he said that it was not fit that the arms of England should be employed against men in their position. (Hear, hear, from Lord Aberdeen.) All the information which had been that evening brought before the House convinced him that it would have been desirable, almost at any hazard, that the *status quo* should have been retained; because, as it was, we had embarked in a course the difficulties of which were but little understood, and had placed ourselves in a position in which we should be called upon to mediate between races who were bitterly hostile to each other, and to govern a large population without having the means of ruling them. (Hear, hear.)

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH said, that if the Greeks really desired to obtain equality in law or in practice, they should recollect that it was not by insurrection that equality was to be obtained. On the contrary, insurrection under such circumstances would create between the two races irreconcilable hostility, and in the event of the ultimate success of the Turks, a persecution of their Christian fellow-subjects from which they were at present free. If the Greeks desired to be placed under the law in circumstances of equality with the Turks, let them come forward together with the Turks for the protection of their native land against the stranger, the invader, and the foreigner. (Cheers.)

Earl FITZWILLIAM thought that this country should not enter into any guarantee with respect to the Christians in Turkey. Indeed, he doubted whether at the present time it was expedient for the British Minister in Turkey to exert himself to obtain any relaxations of the obnoxious laws, lest that should have the effect of engendering the mischievous religious feeling which it seemed to be the endeavour of the Emperor of Russia to excite in the East of Europe. England and France, instead of siding with the enemies of Christianity, were uniting together in order to prevent a state of things in which barbarism and infidelity must prevail over civilisation and religion. (Hear, hear.)

The papers were then ordered.

THE ST. PETERSBURG JOURNAL AND THE TIMES.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, the Earl of DERBY called attention to the Russian documents lately published, and the confidential communications stated to have taken place between the Russian and English Governments. He then referred to a recent article in the *Times*, remarking that that journal possessed information denied to Parliament itself, and which, in some points, belonged to the class of cabinet secrets that could not have come to the cognizance of a newspaper without serious indiscretion. Assuming that the statements now published were true, he contended that they only proved how full and early was the proof of the collusive designs of Russia placed in the hands of the ministry, and showed in stronger colours their credulity in trusting to the Czar, and their connivance in allowing him to proceed in his course if they knew whither it led. Inquiring whether the Government admitted the accuracy of the assertions generally, he particularised the statement (in the *Times*) that certain propositions had been personally made by the Czar to the British administration, when visiting this country in 1844, and challenged the Government to lay the whole correspondence upon the table of the House.

The Earl of ABERDEEN believed that the Russian documents alluded to bore an official character. The ministry had forbore to publish the correspondence with their other despatches on account of its peculiar nature, but now felt themselves released from the diplomatic delicacies which had occasioned their reserve, and had intended, even if not thus appealed to by Lord Derby, to have communicated them to Parliament. In reference to the *Times*' article, he declared that he knew nothing about it until that morning, and could not guess how the information it conveyed was obtained, unless it was by a breach of confidence on the part of a functionary whom Lord Malmesbury had introduced to office. With respect to what passed in 1844, it was true that communications had then been exchanged between the Duke of Wellington and himself, relative to the Eastern question, and certain views were expressed on the subject by Count Nesselrode; but he could not immediately promise to produce the papers drawn up on that occasion, and which in no way referred to the existing state of things.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE trusted that all the papers would be made public.

The Earl of MALMESBURY, after remarking upon the forbearance displayed by himself, complained that he had not been met in a similar spirit:—

He had understood the noble earl to say that the *Times* had obtained its information from a clerk in the office. ("No, no," from the Earl of Aberdeen.) Then what was it? (Hear, hear.) The noble earl said that the only way in which he could account for the knowledge which the *Times* professed of transactions which should only have been known in the most secret office of the Government, was that there had been at the Foreign Office a clerk, who from indiscretion, or from worse motives, had bartered the secrets of the Foreign Office—that that clerk was no longer in the public service, but had been dismissed in consequence. ("No, no," from Lord Aberdeen.) Well, that he was no longer a clerk in the Foreign Office—(hear, hear, from Lord Aberdeen)—and in a tone of voice which no one could misunderstand, the noble earl had chosen to add that this clerk had been appointed by him (the Earl of Malmesbury). He concluded, when the noble earl said this, that he was sure that the *Times* had obtained its information in this way. (Lord Aberdeen—"No, no.") Then the noble earl had no right to mention the matter at all—(hear, hear, from the Opposition)—and it was neither consistent with the manner or usages of their lordships' house, nor with the manners and usages with which, not merely as peers, but as gentlemen, they were in the habit in and out of the house of treating each other.

(Cheers from the Opposition, and "Oh, oh" from the Ministerial benches.) He should take into his consideration, as a peer and a member of Parliament, whether he should not move for some searching examination, by means of the powers of Parliament, to discover who it was that had thus betrayed the secrets of the State. (Cheers.)

The Earl of DERBY, Earl GREY, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, Earl FITZWILLIAM, and the Earl of MALMESBURY followed with some remarks upon the breach of official confidence, and the subject was then allowed to drop.

Mr. DISRAELI originated a similar discussion in the House of Commons.

Lord J. RUSSELL replied, that last year the Emperor of Russia had held a confidential conversation with Sir H. Seymour, our Ambassador at St. Petersburg, with reference to Turkey, and it had been his (Lord John's) duty to bring before the Cabinet the despatch of Sir H. Seymour and the answer to the communication, which was forwarded to Sir Hamilton. It was not the practice, he said, to lay such papers before Parliament, because so doing would put an end to confidential communications. Since, however, the *Journal of St. Petersburg* had alluded to this confidential communication, her Majesty's Government had no longer any scruple about laying a copy of it on the table of the House. With regard to the communication in 1844, it was true that, when the Emperor was in this country in that year, he had held a conversation with the Duke of Wellington, Sir B. Peel, and Lord Aberdeen, which was consigned to a written memorandum; but as to producing that document he must defer giving a positive answer.

THE DINNER AT THE REFORM CLUB.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Mr. FRENCH inquired of Sir J. Graham whether it was true, as reported in the newspaper accounts of the late dinner at the Reform Club, that he had given Sir C. Napier power to declare war immediately upon entering the Baltic; and if so by what authority that power was delegated to a British admiral, and when was it to be acted upon?

Sir JAMES GRAHAM replied as follows:—

Although I dispute the right of the hon. gentleman to put a question to me with regard to what passed at the Reform Club—after dinner (great laughter), perhaps it might not be respectful to the House if I failed to give an answer to that question. I have to state, then, with respect to the authority given by me, as it is alleged in the report to which the hon. gentleman has referred, that my hon. and gallant friend (Sir C. Napier) having said that he hoped, before he entered the Baltic, he might have authority to declare war, I observed, in following him, that, when he entered the Baltic, I hoped there would be no difficulty on his part in declaring war; but I have to state to the House that at present no declaration of war has taken place, no order has been given to Sir C. Napier to enter the Baltic, and that when war is declared a formal communication will be made to him.

Mr. BRIGHT said he had intended to have put a similar question to the First Lord of the Admiralty, and, not to be out of order, would take the liberty of moving the adjournment of the House.

I cannot say that the answer of the right hon. gentleman is one which meets the case (cheers from the opposition), or one that would justify me in saying nothing more upon the subject. The right hon. baronet complains that he should be asked a question about something that happened after dinner. (A laugh.) Now, the House put an interpretation upon that remark which, I am quite sure, was not justified by the state of the right hon. gentleman. (Loud laughter.)

He then referred to a report that a Mansion-house dinner was to have been given to the officers departing to the East, but was judiciously countermanded or postponed.

The Mansion-house dinner did not take place, but the dinner at the Reform Club came on. Now, I don't at all expect the Government to put an end to dinners at the Reform Club. Clubs are celebrated for their cookery (a laugh), and in the case of a great many members of clubs, the preparation of their dinners and the eating of them are the chief objects of their concern during the day. ("Oh, oh," and a laugh.) I am sorry if I have said anything offensive to any hon. members. (Laughter.) Although it was no part of the business of the Government to put a stop to a dinner at the Reform Club, yet, if the Government considered a dinner at the Mansion-house injudicious, I will say nothing of the good taste or the bad taste of Ministers of the Crown in attending the dinner at the Reform Club. I can imagine, however, that, after Ministers have succeeded in bringing a nation to the verge of the precipice of war, they will not be very particular as to the means they take to keep alive or to stimulate public passions, in order, it may be, that some blunders which have been committed may, under this prevailing frenzy, lie undiscovered. It is said that the noble member for the City of London (Lord J. Russell) was requested to attend, if not to preside at, the dinner at the Reform Club; but I need not remind the House that that noble lord, in the midst of many political successes, and of some reverses has generally—I think always—managed to show that he had some self-respect, some regard for his own dignity and for his own character, and he was not present at this dinner. The noble member for Tiverton (Lord Palmerston) was the chairman on the occasion. I won't go into the question whether he should have been chairman or not, but I must say I could not help contrasting the language he used on that occasion, when he spoke of the singleness of mind, the good faith, and the honour of a certain ruler abroad, with the language which I recollect was used by the noble lord in this House only two years ago, when he sought to terrify the House and the country by describing the imminent probability that a marauding army of 60,000 Frenchmen might land on the southern shores of England in a single night. There was another exhibition at that dinner which gave me extreme pain—the presence of the right hon. baronet (Sir W. Molesworth) the Chief Commissioner of Works. ("Hear, and a laugh.") It has only taken some twelve or fifteen months of official life to erase from the mind of the right hon. baronet (Sir W. Molesworth) all traces of that great principle of non-intervention upon which, in 1850, if I recollect aright, he gave a vote emphatically condemning the foreign policy

of the noble lord the member for Tiverton. But I now come to the First Lord of the Admiralty. He has held office for a great number of years; his language is most precise and accurate; he is not surpassed, or even rivalled, by any hon. member in the beautiful precision with which his words are placed and uttered; and he is such a judge of what is discreet that, upon this very occasion, in flat contradiction to the notorious opinions of the noble member for the city of London, he took upon himself to vouch for and to guarantee the absolute discretion of Sir C. Napier. (Some cries of "Hear, hear.") Now, the right hon. baronet (Sir J. Graham) has not, to my mind, stated precisely what where the words he used on the occasion to which reference has been made. I must say of Sir C. Napier that I thought his speech was the best speech at the dinner, for it was a speech not unbecoming the position in which he was placed. The language Sir C. Napier used was this—and I believe the report, so far as I can learn, to be accurate and *verbatim*:—

"I cannot say we are at war, because we are still at peace. (Great laughter.)"

(A laugh.) One would really suppose that nothing could be more funny than the subject which those gentlemen were discussing. "But," Sir C. Napier proceeded,—

"I suppose we are very nearly at war, and probably when I get into the Baltic I'll have an opportunity of declaring war. (Loud cheers, laughter, and a cry of 'Bravo Charley!')

(Laughter.) Now, it was in reference to that paragraph that the First Lord of the Admiralty made the observation to which the attention of the House has been called. The right hon. baronet (Sir J. Graham) said:—

"My gallant friend says, when he goes into the Baltic he will declare war. (Laughter.) I, as First Lord of the Admiralty, give him my free consent so to do."

(Hear.) Suppose the same language had been used before Admiral Dundas entered the Black Sea. It would have been just as proper and rational for a Minister of the Crown to have used such language in that case as in the present; and no idea that we might be at war when Sir C. Napier got into the Baltic could, in my opinion, afford the slightest excuse for the indiscreet language of the First Lord of the Admiralty. I must say that I read the whole of those proceedings with pain and with humiliation. Whether this war be justifiable or not, is not the question; but whatever sort of war it be, it is an awful thing for any nation that engages in it. (Some cries of "Hear, hear.") If war be not in itself always a crime, it is the inevitable parent of innumerable crimes. There are thousands, perhaps scores of thousands of lives depending on this question. The fortunes and the happiness of millions depend upon it. You are sending 20,000 or 25,000 men to the other side of Europe. You take a man from each of 25,000 British homes. In those homes there are families who at this moment are feeling the deepest anxiety—who, it may be, are alternating between hope and fear; and what person can tell but that, before the heat of summer is past, or even before it comes, you may have news from the swamps of the Danube of the indiscriminate slaughter on the battle-field, which will strike dumb with sorrow the occupants of hundreds of homes in this country? I want to know, then, whether it was right or becoming on the part of the noble member for Tiverton to entertain the country with stories and jokes at a time like this? I conceive, Sir, that this is one of the gravest matters that can be discussed by a Legislature or undertaken by a Government, and the reckless levity that was displayed—and it is on that account chiefly that I have risen—the reckless levity, I repeat, that was displayed, was in my opinion discreditable to the very last degree to the grave and responsible statesmen of a civilized and a Christian nation.

Lord PALMERSTON immediately rose, and was received with considerable cheering. He said,—

Sir, the hon. and reverend gentleman (laughter)—

Mr. CORBEN, interrupting: I rise to order. The noble lord has, I believe, made use of an epithet in speaking of my hon. friend, that is not justified by the rules of this House. ("Hear," and some laughter.) I trust I shall not misinterpret his meaning when I say that it was not intended to be personally offensive; but I think I shall not be contradicted by a majority of this House when I say that it was flippant and undeserved.

Lord PALMERSTON: I will not quarrel about words (a laugh); but as the hon. gentleman has been pleased to advert to the circumstance of my being chairman at the dinner to which allusion has been made, and as he has been kind enough to express an opinion as to my conduct on that occasion, I deem it right to inform the hon. gentleman that any opinion he may entertain either of me personally, or of my conduct, private or political, is to me a matter of the most perfect indifference. (Cheers and laughter.) I am further convinced that the opinion of this country with regard to me and to my conduct will in no way whatever be influenced by anything that the hon. gentleman may say. I therefore treat the censure of the hon. gentleman with the most perfect indifference and contempt. (Some cries of "Order!") Is that Parliamentary or not? (Laughter.) If it is not, I do not insist upon the expression. (Cheers and laughter.)

Lord Palmerston had no doubt Mr. Bright sympathised with the opinions of the respectable gentleman whose pamphlet he had read on a former occasion, and believed that this country ought to submit to any degradation rather than have recourse to arms:—

I can only say that I felt very proud at being invited by the Reform Club to preside at the dinner to which allusion has been made. (Cheers.) The hon. member for Manchester thinks that Sir Charles Napier is too old for his duties. The result will show whether he is too old or not. (Cheers.) The hon. member for Manchester, moreover, thinks that these dinner arrangements must be Cabinet questions. Now, I can assure him that they are open questions. (Cheers and laughter.) They are not discussed in the Cabinet; and, though I confess the speech of the hon. member was calculated to excite any but a friendly feeling on my part, I will only say, in conclusion, that if he should get himself elected a member of the Reform Club, (cries from several hon. members of "He is!") Oh! he is a member, is he? (Much laughter.) A most unworthy member, I must say. (Renewed laughter.) If, however, the hon. member should fall into the humour of the Reform Club (a laugh), and should attend the next dinner which is given in honour of a distinguished officer who is about proceeding upon an important public service, I can only say that we shall be happy to hear his speech. (Laughter.)

Sir T. HERBERT, alluding to another expression

attributed to Sir J. Graham, asked whether he had at the dinner in question observed,—"We, as Reformers, may be proud that the honour of the British flag in the Euxine and the Baltic is entrusted to two such champions as Admiral Dundas and Sir C. Napier?"

Sir J. GRAHAM admitted the correctness of the report, and saw no reason to regret or retract the expression. The important commands alluded to had doubtless been given from no political considerations; but it was a matter on which Reformers might fairly congratulate themselves that two approved champions of reform were found worthy of holding them.

Sir W. MOLESWORTH retorted the charge, brought against him by Mr. Bright:—

Upon that occasion I was called upon to propose the health of the Turkish Minister. In so doing I expressed very briefly what were my views as to what had been and what ought to be the policy of her Majesty's Government. I said that they had endeavoured to the utmost of their power to preserve peace—that their efforts had been unsuccessful—that the time for vigorous action had come, and that I hoped success would attend our arms. In expressing those sentiments I am not aware that I said anything of which I need be ashamed. Certainly I said nothing that I should have forbore to express either in this house or anywhere else, and I may be permitted to add, that I do not think that I said anything at all opposed to any opinion that I have ever entertained. The hon. member for Manchester has thought proper to accuse me of some change in my opinions since I have had a seat upon these (the Treasury) benches. I beg to give to that charge a flat contradiction. I do not in any way acknowledge the right of the hon. member to be my political guide or leader, and while I respect his talents, he will permit me to say of him, that though I think he is an able man, I at the same time think that he is full of illiberal and narrow-minded prejudices. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DISRAELI ridiculed the expressions with which so much grave fault had been found, and remarked upon their harmless character, if properly valued. Even if orders to declare war had been given to Sir C. Napier, it was known, he observed, that the gallant admiral never obeyed orders, and might therefore be expected to preserve peace. (Laughter.) And if the two commanders were called Reformers, it appeared that Reformers now meant persons who did not reform, and the character had become consequently altogether innocuous. So also with the invectives pronounced against the Czar. They were like other invectives uttered a year ago against another Emperor, and might result, as in his case, in their object being ere long embraced as one of our most faithful and trusted friends. (Laughter.)

Mr. SPOONER believed that the country generally would endorse Mr. Bright's judgment respecting the Reform Club dinner. He considered that war was a solemn duty which should be inaugurated not with banquets, but with fasting and humiliation, and trusted that the Government would obtain the royal command to have some day set apart for a national testimony to that opinion.

Mr. COBDEN replied to Sir W. Molesworth in defence of the member for Manchester, and pointed to what he considered inconsistencies in the right hon. baronet's conduct before and after he became a Cabinet Minister:—

The right hon. gentleman separated himself, as a member of the club, from himself as a member of the Government. He (Mr. Cobden) spoke of him in all capacities, whether as a member of the club, or of the Government, or as a politician unconnected with either, and he had always believed his right hon. friend to have entertained those opinions which had been attributed to him by his hon. friend the member for Manchester. When he had heard, therefore, the acrimony and want of temper with which his right hon. friend had retorted upon his hon. friend, he must say that the tone and temper of his right hon. friend carried back to his recollection a remark which he had often heard, that when persons expressed contempt of anybody in strong terms, and with a great amount of temper, they did not very often feel all that contempt which they expressed, but rather a feeling of self-accusation and mortification. His right hon. friend had separated himself from his office as a Cabinet Minister, but he ventured to say that his hon. friend had levelled his charges at those three distinguished gentlemen who had attended the Reform Club solely in their capacity of Cabinet Ministers. (Hear, hear.) He had not said a word about the eloquent speeches of the noble member for Marylebone or of the hon. and gallant member for Westminster, because they did not hold that responsible position; but his observations had been addressed to members of the Cabinet, in whose hands rested, after all, the real question of peace and war, although it was called the prerogative of the Crown. (Hear, hear.) These speeches could have little effect as tending to war, because war must have been inevitable in the minds of those gentlemen before they made those speeches; but, then, what became of their conduct in sending out offers of peace to Russia? (Hear, hear.) He had felt since the noble lord, the leader of the House, had made his speech, that war was inevitable, but what he wanted to know was, how we should ever have peace again. The end and object of war must after all be peace, but it appeared to him that the speeches of those Cabinet Ministers had not only rendered war inevitable, but peace impossible. (Hear, hear.) A French historian had laid it down as a maxim, that no English Ministry that had entered into a war had ever lived to see the end of it. Possibly the right hon. gentlemen had that impression upon their minds, and they did not, therefore, feel burdened with that responsibility which otherwise might attach to them. (Hear, hear.)

The motion for the adjournment of the House was then withdrawn.

THE GREEK INSURRECTION IN TURKEY.

On the motion of going into Committee of Ways and Means on Monday, Mr. M. MILNES, at some length, called the attention of the House to the circumstances of the Greek insurrection in Turkey.

Lord J. RUSSELL agreed with Mr. Milnes, that it was the duty of the British Government to do all in its power to improve the condition of the Christian subjects of the Porte, who, notwithstanding the favour-

able disposition of the Sultan, had suffered great evils, chiefly through the conduct of a licentious soldiery. The advice of Lord Stratford had always been directed to the mitigation of these evils. At the same time her Majesty's Government thought it their duty to discourage as much as possible the insurrectionary movements of the Greeks, which could not improve their condition, and while every effort would continue to be employed by them, by advising the Sultan to ameliorate the condition of his Christian subjects, their utmost endeavours would be exerted to discourage these movements, which could tend to no advantage.

Lord LOVAINX adverted to published evidence of the maltreatment of the Christian subjects of the Porte, which, he observed, was the ordinary incident of Turkish rule; their treatment depending upon the accident of the character of the Pasha, whether he was a man of humanity or a tyrant and oppressor. He scouted the idea of Turkish toleration, and sought real guarantees for the rights of the Christians.

Lord D. STUART considered a suggestion thrown out by Mr. Milnes, that a British commissioner should be sent to Turkey to induce its Government to act with moderation towards the Greeks, well deserving of attention. The insurrection was not the result of Turkish persecution; it had been produced and fomented, if not by the Government of Greece, at least by persons belonging to the Greek kingdom. He believed that Turkey had, within the last thirty years, made considerable advances in humanity, as well as in civilization. He had seen in Bulgaria large farms, well stocked with sheep, and a peasantry well clad, well fed, and in appearance contented and happy.

Lord CLAUDE HAMILTON trusted that no British soldiers were to be employed in putting down the struggle for liberty among the Greeks in Turkey.

Mr. LAYARD observed it was necessary to inquire into the origin of the outbreak on the part of the Greek subjects of Turkey, which he traced to the mission of a Russian admiral to Athens by Prince Menschikoff, when he arrived at Constantinople in the beginning of last year, and to the intrigues of Russian agents. He described the position of the Greek races in Turkey and their character; he praised the moderation of the Ottoman Government; he contrasted its mild despotism with the iron tyranny of the Czar, and insisted that the object of Russian interference was to crush the spirit of liberalism and reform which was spreading among the population, as well as among the ruling authorities of Turkey. He related instances of fictitious charges of oppression brought against the Turkish Government, which he said, where causes of just complaint existed, removed the offending Pasha from his pashalic. It had been urged that we should enter into a convention or an understanding with the Porte in respect to the treatment of its Christian subjects; but such a step would justify the very policy of Russia of which we complained.

He said, if they entered into a convention they entered into a most dangerous thing, and one which might justify all the acts of the Russian Government which they now deprecated. They were told that the ambassador had obtained a firman on the part of the Christians, placing them on an equality with Turkish subjects, and, indeed, ever since Lord Stratford de Redcliffe had been at Constantinople, he had been engaged in a series of negotiations with the Porte, which had for their object the bettering the condition of its Christian subjects. They knew how far he had succeeded, and what were the benefits which had followed his interference; therefore, he said, to all intents and purposes they did exercise all the rights that any article of a convention could give them. But they would mark the danger of a convention, for, although they might say they would not take advantage of it, it was not so clear that Austria would not. Would she not put in the same claim on behalf of the Christians of Bosnia that Russia did now on behalf of the Greeks in Turkey. That would involve a great struggle; similar means might be taken advantage of to press claims on behalf of Roman Catholic subjects of the Porte. If, therefore, they had entered into any such article, they had committed a most dangerous error, and insured for this country a speedy quarrel with Austria, if not with France; and, if the Porte did consent to any such article, it would, to a great extent, forfeit its independence. The other day he saw a very curious definition of the Government of Turkey, it was "a despotic government influenced by the Northern and Western Powers." (Laughter.) No one could be more opposed than he was to the acts of cruelty and oppression that he had unfortunately witnessed, and whatever knowledge or influence he had possessed in that country he had turned to the best account he could, not only in preventing acts of cruelty, but in obtaining redress (cheers); he had already told the House he had once or twice succeeded. No one was more alive to the disastrous effect of the Mahomedan religion than himself, or was more opposed to the wickedness of the principles of Islamism, but this was not a question of the Turkish or Mahomedan religion against Christianity; it was a question involving grave rights and interests, and the principles of international law. He not only believed that the Turkish Government would carry out what reform it could, but that a state of things existed in that Government which was most conducive to placing Christianity on that basis which, he believed, it was the intention of Providence it should enjoy. (Cheers.)

Mr. E. BALL thought that the Emperor of Russia had been misrepresented. He disclaimed all sympathy with those who cried out for war, the necessity of which he denied, and which, he said would soon cease to be popular.

Lord PALMERSTON assured the House that the Government had nothing more at heart than to use all their efforts to improve the condition of the Christian subjects of the Sultan, and to place them on a footing of equality with the Mussulmans; but these efforts must be tempered by a regard to the independence of the sovereign of another country. This had been the object of the Government for several years past, and, by a recent firman, Christian testimony was to be received in Turkey in all cases, civil and criminal, in all the courts of the Ottoman empire. With respect to the Greek insurrection, he did not share in the appre-

hension as to the extent of a movement which in its origin was not entirely domestic. The troops sent from this country were sent to support the great cause in which this country was engaged, which was not a religious war; its only object was the maintenance, not of the independence of Turkey alone, but the great interests of Europe and the civilized world.

Mr. GIBSON complained of the discordant opinions expressed by different Ministers of the Crown as to the object of the war. He asked whether there was a convention, or anything in writing, on the subject of the privileges of the Christians in Turkey between the Governments of England and France and Turkey, and, if so, whether it could be placed on the table? He protested against the doctrine that we were entitled to rivet any government upon any country, contrary to the wishes of the people.

Sir R. PEEL, believing that the conduct of the Government would bear the closest scrutiny, thought Parliament was entitled to express its opinion upon the condition of the Christians in Turkey. The Greek insurrectionary movement was not the result of any immediate crisis in Eastern affairs; it was the consequence of a state of things which had long engaged the solicitude of different statesmen.

Mr. DRUMMOND described the embarrassments which must inevitably attend any interference on behalf of the Christians of Turkey, and advised the Government to abstain from so hazardous an attempt.

There being no amendment before the House, the discussion here terminated, when, it being 12 o'clock,

Mr. DISRAELI objected to entering into a Committee of Ways and Means, and upon a consideration of the resolution of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had given notice for an addition to the income-tax, insisting that the House ought previously to know the contents of the confidential correspondence referred to in the early part of the evening.

At the suggestion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the House went into committee; the resolution was moved and read by the chairman, who then reported progress.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Thames Improvement Bill, which embodies the scheme of Mr. Lionel Gisborne, was thrown out on Thursday without a division.

On Friday, Lord BROUGHAM laid on the table a Bill to assimilate the law of Bankruptcy and Insolvency in Scotland to the English law. In moving for some returns relating to the County Courts, the noble and learned lord dilated upon the success which had attended their working.

Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE, at the request of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, has postponed the second reading of his Public Prosecutors' Bill, to allow Government to introduce a general measure on the subject.

Mr. BRIGHT, on Friday, presented a petition, signed by almost every independent or non-governmental European in Calcutta, in reference to the disgraceful state of that city, with regard to all those precautions which were taken in other large towns for promoting the health and comfort of the inhabitants. The petitioners stated that in Calcutta there was no drainage, and no lighting with gas, and that, in point of fact, all those things which municipal corporations provided for in England were totally wanting in that city. He also presented a petition, signed by twenty-three Missionaries in the Presidency of Madras, stating that about 200,000 of the inhabitants of the Principality of Travancore were held in the most degrading state of bondage. The petitioners believed that if the Government of India would only make a representation to the Rajah of Travancore in regard to the condition of these unfortunate individuals, there would be no difficulty in obtaining their immediate or early freedom. He moved that the petition be printed.—Agreed to.

Lord J. RUSSELL, on Thursday, moved that no warrants for new writs for Barnstaple, Cambridge, Canterbury, Hull, Maldon, and Tynemouth, be issued before Friday, the 17th March. This motion was agreed to, after a few words from Mr. Disraeli.

In consequence of Lord John Russell's illness the University Bill was not brought on, but stands for Friday next.

Mr. G. MOORE, on Monday, urged an inquiry regarding the appointment of Mr. Stonor to a puisne judgeship at Melbourne. He called attention to the report of the Sligo Election Committee, which had affixed a charge of bribery to that gentleman, and asked whether the Government intended to confirm him in the office? Mr. F. PEEL justified the nomination of Mr. Stonor, which had taken place when both himself and the Duke of Newcastle were unaware of the circumstances alluded to in the report of the Sligo Committee, but which, even now they knew the whole story, they did not feel called upon to cancel. Mr. DIVERT characterised the appointment in question as one of the most disgraceful ever made by Government. Mr. BOWYER defended Mr. Stonor, upon whose conduct the election committee had, he believed, passed an undeserved censure. Mr. K. SEYMER, Mr. HILDYARD, and Mr. SCULLY having spoken, the subject dropped.

In reply to Lord JOCELYN, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated the principles on which the new postal arrangements were making for the transmission of letters between England and Australia. Fresh contracts were being entered into with the steam-packet companies, and fourpence per letter was to be charged for sea postage, of which the Government retained half, and the company depended for its remuneration upon the remaining moiety. Under certain contingencies additional steamers might be called into service, but no grants of public money would be henceforth required in carrying on the postal communication with the South Australian colonies.

The rights and treatment of neutral vessels in case of war was again made the topic of interpellation on Monday, various members eliciting from Lord J. Russell and Sir C. Wood renewed assurances that the Government were giving their most anxious consideration to the subject.

On Monday night, Lord J. Russell said he proposed to take the second reading of the Poor Law Settlement and Removal Bill on Monday next, and to postpone the Alteration of Oaths Bill until the 27th inst.

In reply to Sir G. Pechell, Lord J. Russell said that the Government had received information that of three Russian corvettes of war, which had been lying at Trieste, two had been taken into the inner harbour, disarmed, and sold. The third had been taken out of harbour, and had proceeded to Zara, where there was reason to believe she had been sold also.

DIVISION ON MINISTERS' MONEY (IRELAND).

The following are the names of the members of the House of Commons who voted on Mr. Fagan's motion on Thursday last:—

AYES.		
Anderson, Sir J	Greville, Colonel F	Pollard, A
Ball, J	Hadfield, G	Phillimore, J
Barnes, T	Hastie, A	Phinan, T
Bass, M T	Hearde, J I	Pilkington, J
Beamish, F B	Heywood, J	Pollard-Urquhart, W
Bell, J	Heywood, L	Potter, R
Biggs, W	Higgins, G G O	Power, N
Blackett, J F B	Hindley, C	Richardson, J J
Brady, J	Hutt, W	Roche, E B
Bright, J	Keating, R	Roebuck, J A
Brown, W	Keating, H S	Russell, F W
Cheetham, J	Kennedy, T	Scholefield, W
Clay, Sir W	Kershaw, J	Scully, F
Cobbett, J M	Langston, J H	Scully, V
Cobden, R	Lee, W	Shafte, R D
Collier, R P	McCann, J	Shaw, W
Cowan, C	McTaggart, Sir J	Shelley, Sir J V
Craufurd, E H J	Maguire, J F	Smith, J B
Crossley, F	Massey, W N	Stanley, Hon W
Devereux, J T	Meagher, T	Thicknesse, R A
Duffy, C G	Miall, E	Thompson, G
Duke, Sir J	Milligan, R	Thornely, T
Duncan, G	Moffatt, G	Walsley, Sir J
Ferguson, J	Moore, R S	Wilkinson, W A
Fitzgerald, Sir J	Muniz, G F	Williams, W
Fitzgerald, J D	Murrough, J P	Wise, A
Gesch, C	Norrey, Sir D J	
Goderich, Viscount	O'Brien, P	
Goodman, Sir G	O'Connell, D	
Goold, W	O'Connell, J	
Grace, O D J	Pechell, Sir G	
NOES.		
Acland, Sir T D	Graham, Sir J	Mundy, W
Barrington, Viscount	Greaves, E	Napier, J
Barrow, W H	Greenall, G	Oakes, J H P
Bethell, Sir R	Hamilton, G	Packe, C W
Booth, Sir R G	Hayes, Sir E	Paget, Lord A
Boyle, Hon Colonel	Heathcoat, J	Palmerston, Viscount
Bruce, Lord B	Heathcoat, G H	Peel, F
Buckley, General	Henley, J W	Pugh, D
Cairns, H	Harvey, Lord A	Robertson, P F
Cardwell, H	Horsfall, T B	Rolt, P
Cholmondeley, Lord H	Hotham, Lord	Russell, Lord J
Clinton, Lord R	Hudson, G	Sawle, C B G
Cobbold, J C	Hume, W F	Sibthorp, Colonel
Cockburn, Sir A	Johnstone, J	Smith, Sir W
Compton, H C	Jolliffe, Sir W G H	Smith, W M
Crowder, R B	Jones, Captain	Spooner, R
Davison, R	Jones, D	Stanhope, J B
Dent, J D	Kirk, W	Starkie, Le G N
Diarmid, B	Knatchbull, W E	Strutt, E
Drumlanrig, Viscount	Lacoe, Sir E	Taylor, Colonel
Duckworth, Sir J	Langton, H G	Tyler, Sir G
Dunne, Colonel	Langton, W G	Vance, J
East, Sir J B	Laslett, W	Vansittart, G H
Elcho, Lord	Lockhart, W	Vyse, Captain H
Fellion, M J	Lowe, R	Waddington, H S
Fergus, J	Luce, T	Walcott, Admiral
Fitzroy, Hon H	Mackie, J	Wilson, J
Follett, E S	McGregor, J	Winnington, Sir T
Forster, J	Malins, B	Wood, Sir G
Franklyn, G W	Mandeville, Viscount	Wrightson, W B
Froven, C H	Macle, Hon Colonel	Wynne, W W E
Gladstone, W	Molesworth, Sir W	Young, Sir J
Gladstone, Capt.	Monck, Viscount	
Gore, W O	Moncreiff, J	
Goulburn, H	Moody, C A	
	Mulgrave, Earl	
PAIRS.		
Fox.	AGAINST.	
Ricardo, O	Forbes, W	
Price, W P	Dering, Sir E	
Bowyer, G	Hamilton, Lord C	
O'Flaherty, A	Hanbury, Hon C S B	
Castlereagh, Viscount	Foley, J H	
Morris, D	Forester, Rt. Hon. Col. C.	
Duff, J	Powlett, Lord W	
Sadler, James	Bentinck, G W P	

It will be seen from the above, that the votes in favour of Government were 103, against it 88. On Friday another division took place, when Mr. Fagan moved his amendment to the Ministerial proposition brought forward by Sir John Young, when the numbers were respectively 136 to 93. The actual number, however, of members voting against the tax was 132; for it, 184; making the aggregate Government majority 62. It will be observed that the minority was composed, almost to a man, of the habitual supporters of the Government. The majority consisted, first, of 120 members of the Tory benches (including most of the glorious 83 of Protectionist memory); secondly, 29 holders of office (among whom, it is to be noted, Messrs. Keogh and Monsell do not figure); and, thirdly, forty-four "Liberals," many of whom are connected by personal ties with members of the Cabinet. Their names are as follow:—Sir F. Baring, Lieut.-General Sir G. Berkeley, Hon. G. Cavendish, Raikes Currie, Dent, E. Ellice, Ferguson, Foley, Follett, John Forster, Colonel Freestun, Sir G. Grey, Thomson Hankey, G. V. Harcourt, J. Heathcoat, W. B. Hughes, Johnston, D. Jones, Kirk, Langton (Bristol), Laslett, Sir C. Lemon, Colonel Lindsay, Lockhart, Luce, Machie, Marjoribanks, Matheson, R. M. Milnes, Viscount Monck, Pritchard, Royd Rice, Rich, Sawle, Lord Seymour, Starkie, Thornhill, Captain Townshend, G. E. H. Vernon, Stuart Wortley, Wrightson, and Wyvill. It is to be hoped that the constituents of these honourable gentlemen, and especially of such large places as Bristol, Worcester, Coventry, and Northampton, will bring them to account for their votes on this occasion.

Postscript.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords last night, the Earl of Malmesbury returned to the subject of the betrayal of confidence by a clerk whom he had placed in the Foreign-office, and declared that he was authorized to state that the information which had appeared in the *Times* newspaper had not been communicated by the gentleman in question to the *Times*. The Earl of Aberdeen replied, that though he did not mean to say that the gentleman in question had communicated directly with the *Times*, still information had reached him from so many quarters that that gentleman had openly talked of matters which had come to his knowledge when in the Foreign-office, that he would leave it to the gentleman himself to say whether he had not so spoken, and, if he denied it, then he (Lord Aberdeen) would be ready to confess that he had been most grossly deceived. After some further observations from Lord Malmesbury, who expressed himself as anything but satisfied with Lord Aberdeen's reply, the matter dropped.

The LORD CHANCELLOR then moved the second reading of the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill, and, having expressed himself surprised at the amount of dissatisfaction now expressed at the measure, against which several petitions had been presented during the course of the evening, proceeded to comment on the objections raised against the bill in those petitions, and then announced his intention of referring it to a select committee after it had been read a second time. Lord Brougham said that a most serious objection to the measure was the loss and injury which it would entail on the practitioners, both advocates and proctors, of the Prerogative Court—men of the utmost integrity, who were entitled to the highest consideration. He trusted that the House would see that it would be false economy to deny fair compensation to those gentlemen. The Bishop of St. Asaph, the Earl of Harrowby, and Lord Faversham opposed the bill; as being unnecessarily harsh and sweeping in its provisions, and as extinguishing the civil law bar, which, under existing circumstances, it was very desirable should be maintained. After some further remarks the bill was read a second time, and ordered to be referred to a select committee.

Some other business was then despatched, and their Lordships adjourned.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Haywood moved an address for a copy of the alterations in the Book of Common Prayer proposed by the Royal Commissioners for the Revision of the Liturgy in 1689, which were intended to be submitted to Convocation, and subsequently considered in Parliament, the original of which has passed into the charge of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Lord Palmerston offered no opposition; but Mr. Goulburn objected that this was an attempt to make the owner of a private library give up a document which the public could not need, as the information it contained might be procured from other sources. Mr. Huxley expressed a similar opinion. Mr. Labouchere did not consider that any principle was violated by the motion, or that the library of the archbishop was strictly a private one. After a few words from the CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer, in favour of the motion, and from Mr. K. Seymour against it, the House divided, when the motion was carried by 132 against 83.

THE ABOLITION OF OATHS.

Mr. PELLETT moved for leave to bring in a bill substituting declarations for the oaths now required in a variety of legal, commercial, and professional transactions. The multiplicity of instances in which these solemn formalities were at present exacted resulted in much irreverence and profanity, and led to a general familiarity and perjury. He proposed to enact accordingly, that in all cases where conscientious scruples were entertained, a simple affirmation might be substituted, at the desire of the taker who should still remain liable to all the penalties now assigned to the crime of perjury, if it should be proved that he had affirmed a falsehood.

The motion was seconded by Mr. HADFIELD.

Lord PALMERSTON did not oppose the introduction of the bill, though he thought it might have been as well to wait to see the bill upon this subject which had been introduced into the other house. He admitted that a great number of oaths might be dispensed with, and that a declaration or asseveration would in such cases suffice; but, with regard to the more important oaths in judicial proceedings, he did not think it expedient to dispense with them.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated that the bill introduced into the House of Lords proposed to relieve persons who really entertained conscientious scruples to taking an oath; but, as oaths were found to be a real security in courts of justice, it was intended to leave it to the judge to ascertain, by interrogatory, from the witness whether his scruples were real, and in such cases, but only in such cases, to dispense with an oath.

A division having been called for, the motion for leave to bring in the bill was carried by a single vote, the ayes being 109 and the noes 108.

Mr. WHITESIDE moved for leave to bring in a bill to assimilate the law and practice existing in cases of high treason in Ireland to the law and practice existing in cases of high treason in England. Lord PALMERSTON commended the object of the bill, to the introduction of which he offered no opposition. Leave was given.

THE PROPERTY OF NUNS.

Mr. WHITESIDE then moved for leave to bring in another bill, to secure to persons under religious

vows the free exercise of their lawful rights in the disposal of their property. It was essential, he observed, to apply a remedy to the overbearing exercise of spiritual influence, on the same principle as that which courts of equity applied to cases of undue influence of another character. The remedy proposed in his bill was by enacting that any deed, gift, &c., executed by any female who had bound herself by a religious vow, should be deemed to have been executed under the coercion of such vow and against her own free will, unless the contrary be proved before a judicial tribunal; thereby throwing the *onus probandi* upon those who obtained such deed, gift, &c.

The proposed measure was opposed by several Irish members.

Mr. BOWYER opposed the introduction of such a bill, the preamble of which condemned establishments forming an important and useful part of the machinery of his church, while its principle was repugnant to the ordinary rules of jurisprudence, in requiring a proof of a negative. Mr. Lucas called to mind that a committee was about to be nominated to inquire into the whole matter.

Lord PALMERSTON thought there was some force in least objection, and although, upon principle, he was not disposed to object to the measure, yet he suggested that, if the bill was brought in, Mr. Whiteside should postpone the further stage until the committee had made a report.

Mr. WHITESIDE was ready to adopt this suggestion, and to refer the bill to that committee.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL did not think the bill would have the effect which was its professed object. If there were abuses, he would not hesitate to set up a barrier against them; but, if Parliament did legislate, it should legislate effectually.

Mr. NAPIER and Mr. KINNAIRD made a few observations, and the House having divided, the motion was carried by 68 against 40.

Mr. ABERLEY asked the Home Secretary, when he would introduce his promised bill for the promotion of Juvenile Reformatories. Lord PALMERSTON was unable to state the time when he would bring in the bill, as it was a matter which required a good deal of consideration and deliberation. He had, however, taken measures in that direction, which he hoped would increase the number of youthful offenders sent to Red-bill, which was a voluntary reformatory establishment, and he should be glad to take advantage of other voluntary establishments for the same purpose. As far as possible—and he believed the more Government was enabled to co-operate with voluntary reformatory establishments the better the result would be—it was very desirable that young persons sent to those establishments should be divested of their criminal character, which was often an impediment to their future progress in reformation.

Some further business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at a quarter past 8 o'clock.

THE WAR.

Sir Charles Napier's squadron was in the Downs on Monday, awaiting final orders. At half-past two in the afternoon the signal "Prepare for Sea" was made, and the various ships were about to weigh anchor. The fleet (says the *Daily News*) is bound first for Wingo Sound, on the coast of Sweden, where the ships will anchor for a time. In that position the fleet would guard the outlet of the Cattagat, and enjoy the advantages of being near a great town like Gottenburg, with its population of nearly 80,000 souls. The next step would be to pass the Sound or the Great Belt, and enter the Baltic.

Yesterday the members of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce met and agreed to resolutions against privateering.

The *Himalaya*, which sailed five days after the other troop ships, arrived at Gibraltar on the 8th. She made the run from Plymouth in three days twelve hours, the quickest voyage across the Bay of Biscay ever accomplished.

Advices from Toulon state that the *Napoleon* had left for Algeria in order to transport troops.

It is stated that the Anglo-French squadron in the Adriatic has intercepted a supply of arms and munitions of war destined for the Albanian insurgents.

The Archduke Albert, lately appointed Commander of the corps of observation and of the army of Hungary, has arrived at Pesth.

It is stated that the garrison of Cronstadt is to be increased by a supplementary force of 12,000 men drafted from the imperial guards. Three ships (partly propelled by steam) of 80 guns each, had been just put into commission. They are intended to join the first division of the Baltic fleet, which is to be raised to 27 or 28 vessels. But among these men-of-war, several belonging to the divisions of Revel and Helsingfors are in a sorry state, nor can they be repaired, since at neither of these harbours are there the requisite materials. The Russian Admiralty had given orders to build at Vyborg, Abo, and Sweaborg, 200 gun-boats, on the model of those which are in the Cronstadt channel. They were being constructed with the greatest activity. On the 28th ult. the Czar visited the fortifications of Cronstadt, accompanied by his son the Czarowitch and hereditary Grand Duke Alexander.

The insurrection in Albania seems to be expiring. The *Morning Chronicle* has a correspondent at Braila, who, under date February 27, reports that the Russians were about crossing the Danube, between that town and Galatz. Prince Gortschakoff was at Ismail, and a corps of 50,000 was to be concentrated at Braila.

CORN EXCHANGE.—MARK-LANE—Wednesday, March 16th.

With good supplies of grain and fine weather, our trade to-day quiet for every article, and prices much as on Monday.—Arrived this week:—English, wheat 68s; barley 188s; oats 36s 6d; rye 85s 4d;—Irish, oats 26s 6d;—Foreign, wheat 24s 10d; barley 177s; oats 64s 6d;—Rye 54s 6d;—4400 lbs.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. S. writes,—"I received the *Nonconformist* this morning—when it came to hand the wrapper had been torn, and a string put round; the inside of the paper soiled, and greased with palm-oil or candle-grease. Who is to blame? I apprehend not the manager of the office whence it started. It is not the first time this has happened." Complaints of this nature are frequent. The publisher will be obliged if subscribers will, in every such instance, write to the Secretary, General Post Office, St. Martin's le Grand, London.

The address to ministers of religion on the coming war is in type, but excluded for want of room.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1854.

SUMMARY.

The great event of the week is the sailing of the first division of the Baltic fleet under the command of Admiral Sir Charles Napier. In the presence of Royalty, and amidst the acclamations of thousands of spectators, a squadron of sixteen war steamers, carrying more than 10,000 men and 1,000 guns, sailed from Spithead on Saturday, on its dread mission to Northern Europe. The second division will raise this great naval force to the complement of forty-four ships, manned by 22,000 men, and mounting 2,200 guns; the most formidable armament ever sent forth to meet an enemy on the ocean. That this country has been able, at so short a notice, to equip so effective a fleet, shows how ridiculous were the complaints of alarmists as to the insufficiency of our national defences. Nor can it be denied, that the object of the demonstration is as unique as its strength is unprecedented. The popular idea associated with the event, whether correct or not, is that the squadron has departed to chastise the disturber of the peace of Europe, and to curb a Power whose vitality is chiefly expended in annexing the territory of its neighbours. Rarely has a warlike force carried with it so cosmopolitan a sympathy. There can be no doubt that the sailing of this terrible armament will produce a feeling of relief, if not of rejoicing, in Sweden and Denmark as well as in Turkey, in Hungary as well as in France, in America as well as at home.

Sir Charles Napier has departed—but where? Not to the Baltic, says Sir James Graham, who saves his ministerial reputation at the expense of his bad joke. It may be presumed that the fleet will rendezvous at some convenient anchorage, to await final orders from the Government, and prevent the egress of any Russian war-ships through the Sound, should they venture beyond their own ports. Those, therefore, who are in expectation of early news of an exciting contest are likely to be disappointed. Another month must yet elapse ere war can be declared and operations commenced, before which time the three divisions of the Russian fleet may be concentrated under the 800 guns of Cronstadt, or ensconced beneath the batteries of Sveaborg, "the Gibraltar of the Baltic." To attack a powerful fleet, aided by the batteries of a fortified sea-port, is a perilous and almost unprecedented enterprise, while the blockade of a port is tedious and often resultless. Even the dashing Sir Charles Napier felt it necessary to remind his admirers on Saturday, that he was going forth to meet an enemy well prepared, under novel circumstances, and that they must not expect too much. We shall, therefore, in all probability, have to wait long, before any decisive news reaches us from the Baltic.

Meanwhile the war fever suffers no diminution. Nearly all the business of both Houses of Parliament has still a bearing upon the absorbing topic. The manning of the navy—the law of nations as to privateering—the articles of the Russian official organ—the insurrection of the Greeks in Turkey—and the state of the Christian population in that country—are topics which have well nigh excluded others of more domestic interest. The debate upon the last-named question, in the House of Lords, will be perused with interest, as throwing light upon the respective positions of Russia and Turkey in relation to religious freedom. It will be seen that the Earl of Shaftesbury agrees with Lord Stratford and Mr. Layard in attributing the last aggressive movement of the Czar mainly to the spread of Protestantism in Turkey; and that the Earl of Clarendon was able to announce that the Sultan had issued a firman for placing the evidence of his Christian, on an equality with that of his Mussulman, subjects. Lord Stratford also hopes for further concessions from the Porte in the same direction. Hitherto the Ottoman Government has failed to conciliate this portion of its subjects, not in consequence of a lack of good intentions, but from the want of power to carry them out. Grasping pachas, greedy priests, and lawless mercenaries have set at naught the firmans of the Central Government, and brought about that chronic state of suffering and discon-

tent which has led to insurrection on the Greek border.

Lord John Russell promises to do his best to persuade the Sultan to place his Christian subjects on an entire equality with the remainder, and to prevent the employment of other than regular troops in the suppression of the insurrection in Epirus and Albania. But it is admitted that our interference involves many delicate considerations. If the Four Powers may demand a joint protectorate over the Christians, why may not Russia do the same? And suppose it should turn out that the greatest oppressors of the Christian population are their own patriarchs and priests? Is external interference still admissible?

Austria and Prussia sedulously pursue the difficult course of hallooing with the hounds and running with the hare. The former Power seems bent upon occupying Serbia and Bosnia, much to the annoyance of the Porte and local governments, although it is possible that the presence of the Austrian army on the frontier has induced the Russians to fortify themselves in the Principalities, instead of passing the Danube. Yet, to please the Czar, the *Vienna Lloyd*, the most out-spoken of Austrian journals, has been suspended for eight days. But Prussia lags far behind her German rival. Austria has consented to sign a convention in the sense of the last Vienna protocol—Prussia absolutely declines. Public opinion, unmistakably adverse to the Russian alliance, is rousing itself in the latter country, and even moderate Conservatism shrinks from the vacillating and unpatriotic king. But speculation in the matter is of little avail. If we wish for the co-operation of the German Powers, it is justly remarked, the best way will be to leave them alone for the present—the force of circumstances will do the rest.

To make an end of Foreign Affairs, before coming to the strictly domestic, we may mention here, that there has been a discussion in the Sardinian chambers, in which the Government maintained with spirit its right to prosecute the amendment of penal laws independently of the Court of Rome, or of "any other court;"—and that the chronic distractions of the councils of the Queen of Spain, are not unlikely to issue in a very remarkable event—the recall, from his long and unmerited exile, of the Liberal chief Espartero.

Discussions in the daily press alternately of the Parliamentary and the University Reform schemes, struggle against the excitement of war and the influence of delay, to keep alive public interest in these measures. The former, Earl Grey has urged the Government, with less than his usual force, to abandon for the session; and has elicited from the Earl of Aberdeen a distinct statement, that the 27th of April was fixed only conditionally for the second reading of the bill. Public meetings at Kensington and Brighton urged Lord John to persevere; and Birmingham will probably repeat the advice with a characteristic difference of tone.

On the same day that the House of Commons was repressing in alarm a very mild encroachment on the aristocratic monopoly of land, the Labour Parliament, sitting at Manchester, was affirming theories of property in land and capital, the extravagance of which can only be extenuated by viewing them as a recoil from extravagance in the opposite direction. Of all the conventions that have of late years professed to represent the otherwise unrepresented, this of Messrs. Ernest Jones and Petzler is probably the most ludicrous. The slender influence of these gentlemen over the industrial classes, is well exemplified in the fact, that the Preston and Blackburn operatives declined their participation in the extraordinary gatherings of Saturday and Sunday.

The warmth and brightness of May, on which we have fallen, with not less surprise than pleasure, in March,—the sunshine and mild air which permitted these out-door celebrations—have served, alas! to revive from his winter torpor the relentless punisher of dirt and debauchery. At Leeds, Glasgow, and Limerick, cholera has appeared—in each taking a very malignant form; at Kanturk (near Limerick) doing its deadly office with unparalleled suddenness. Of course, the precautionary or remedial activity suspended at the advance of winter, has in these cases been resumed, and at Leeds with immediate effect. In the metropolis no cholera cases are reported, though last week's return of deaths is considerably above the calculated amount; but, from Lord Shaftesbury's statement in the Lords, it is to be feared that London, in many parts, is no better prepared now to resist the epidemic than twelve months, or even sixteen years, ago.

The country assizes have issued in the condemnation to death of Hatto, for the Burnham Abbey murder; and of the drunken madman, Burrows, for beating to death a crippled woman of seventy. From the lofty seat whence these solemn awards are dispensed, a Judge has himself been summoned—without a moment's warning—to the unseen world. As Mr. Justice Talfourd was delivering, on Monday morning, a charge to the grand-jury of Stafford, he fell back in his seat—smitten with

apoplexy—and presently expired. So awful an example of the uncertainty of life, would have been, whomsoever its subject, deeply impressive. In this case, it excites universal regret and much private grief. For Thomas Noon Talfourd was one of the brightest ornaments of our times—as a poet, an orator, and a lawyer, as a man, a senator, and a judge, the object of high admiration and warm regard; a rare example of refined talent and sensibility, in union with legal knowledge and arduous industry. As he was the son of a Dissenter, and the grandson of a Dissenting Minister, Dissent may claim some of the honour of his fashioning, though it derived no help or lustre from his life;—and as he was one of the many to whom the subordinate vocations of the press formed a stepping-stone to celebrity, political, professional, and literary, we may cast, with the more willing hand, our stone upon the cairn fast rising to his memory.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

"THE law of primogeniture" is often, and, as we think, very justly spoken of with some severity out of doors, but we are not aware that it has been seriously discussed in Parliament until Wednesday last. A very general opinion prevails that real estate in this country must descend to the eldest son, and the law of primogeniture is frequently referred to as the operative cause which keeps large landed estates in few hands. But this is a mistake. All that the law of England renders compulsory in the matter, is the handing over real estates in all cases of intestacy to the male heir—thus sanctioning the unjust principle that the rights of the eldest son swallow up the rights of every other member of the family. Mr. Locke King's "Succession to Real Estates" Bill went to correct this legal anomaly, leaving the custom and the power of entail just where it is at present. Its operation would probably not have effected the succession of aristocratic heirs in one case out of a hundred; but it would have prevented many an instance of gross injustice among the middle-classes, where small land proprietors have been suddenly cut off without making a will, and where the eldest son has the power, not merely to claim the whole of the realty, but to apply so much of the personal property of the deceased as may be necessary to free that realty from incumbrance. Against Mr. Locke King's bill not a word of reasonable objection could be urged, and hence it became necessary to attack the motives of the hon. gentleman, and of those who supported him. His measure was described, of course, as the first only of a series, which was to end in a compulsory division of landed property, such as that which obtains in France—and a superfluous amount of argument was expended in proving that farms may be too small for profitable cultivation. Mr. Bright and Mr. Bouverie may be referred to as having put the case in favour of the bill in the clearest and most convincing light—Lord John Russell and Mr. Disraeli as having most ingeniously, and most sophistically, set forth the grounds of opposition to it. The House was well attended—the tone of the debate was cool and deliberative—but, as we thought, the argument was all on one side—the side which the division showed to be, for the present at least, but little favoured within the precincts of St. Stephen's.

On Thursday evening Mr. Fagan, member for Cork, brought on his motion for the abolition of Ministers' Money in Ireland, for the sixth time, we believe. He proved a grievance, and he pointed out a remedy for it. Indeed, his case was so clear and so well known, that, so far as Parliament is concerned, he might safely have dismissed it in a few sentences. Mr. Hadfield seconded the motion, and very appropriately read to the House a passage from one of Macaulay's works, descriptive of the religious characteristics of the reign of Charles II., in which the law was first enacted. Sir John Young, Secretary for Ireland, stood up on the part of the Government to oppose the bill, and rendered it quite clear, before he had done, that his course had been dictated by the necessities of his position rather than by the sympathies of his heart. A more hesitating, self-contradictory, and miserable defence of a policy which his own propositions condemned, it has never been our misfortune to listen to. He was answered at great length by Mr. Maguire, whose manner seldom tends to set off his matter, who seems to mistake acerbity for strength, and who, regardless of vacant benches and listless reporters, does not consider that proximity may defeat the very cause which it is enlisted to serve. For an hour and a-half, he persisted in holding forth to a nearly vacant, and much wearied House; and we are not sure that he did not drive away more votes than would have sufficed to place Mr. Fagan in a majority. Several other members followed him, but no other member of the Administration. The division was 88 to 103 in favour of Mr. Fagan's motion—a close run, the announcement of which was hailed by loud cheers from the minority.

Friday brought up the question once more.

Lord John Russell, the leader of the House, was indisposed, and unable to attend in his place, and all Government business was consequently postponed—all but Ministers' Money, which his own supporters had shown their aversion to. Sir John Young moved the House into Committee for the purpose of getting leave to introduce his bill. Mr. Fagan, without a single word of preface, moved as an amendment the expediency of introducing such a measure as he had himself intended to propose. Mr. Miall briefly appealed to the Government whether, after the division of the previous evening, it was worth while to persist in forcing upon their followers a compromise evidently distasteful to the majority of them, and Mr. Bright urged this view of the case in a few emphatic sentences. It was all in vain. No reply was vouchsafed—and a second division was taken, in which 93 votes were recorded against the Government plan. Mr. Miall immediately delivered in a notice that on the motion for a second reading of the bill, he will move that it be read a second time that day six months. We have some doubt whether Sir John Young will afford him the opportunity. The House adjourned soon after five o'clock.

On Monday afternoon we went down to the House in full anticipation of a dull and fatiguing debate in committee on the Income-tax. To our surprise, the benches filled up at an early hour, and before five o'clock there was a crowded House. Lively interest is always taken in personal disputes; and hence every one was anxious to hear what Sir James Graham would say, when put to the question on his indiscreet utterances at the Reform Club dinner to Sir Charles Napier. When, therefore, Mr. French rose to inquire of Sir James whether he was correctly reported as having given his consent to Sir Charles Napier to proclaim war on his arrival in the Baltic, the hush of the House was instant. Sir James Graham gave an evasive answer, the only telling point of which was, that the observations he had made were addressed to the company assembled at the Reform Club after dinner. But he was not to get off so easily. Mr. Bright started up, and having moved an adjournment of the House, put himself in order to deliver a speech, and a very crushing speech he made, in which he handled Sir James Graham, Lord Palmerston, and Sir William Molesworth with a roughness of criticism which made their ears tingle, and exasperated to a pitch of frantic indignation the minds of their out-and-out partisans. Lord Palmerston begun his reply by addressing Mr. Bright as the hon. and *reverd.* member, for which he was called to order by Mr. Cobden in a few words of rebuke which completely floored him. His jaunty spirit was gone, and he could manage only to blurt out a string of vulgar common places. Mr. Disraeli joined in the fray, and affecting to come to the rescue of the crest-fallen ministers, fired off a succession of clever sarcasms, the chief merit of which was that the tone of them was out of keeping with the gravity of the occasion. Sir William Molesworth defended himself as well as he was able, but not being very successful, finished by "abusing the plaintiff." Mr. Spooner substantially agreed with Mr. Bright in condemning the levity of spirit which had been exhibited on the eve of a formidable war—and Mr. Cobden concluded by rivetting upon Sir W. Molesworth the charge of inconsistency. The predominant feeling in the House was that of pain; for every man had a secret conviction that the castigation administered to the three Ministers was richly deserved.

The scene was no sooner over than Government was again taken to task for having appointed to a puisne judgeship in Australia a Mr. Stonar, who had been charged by an Election Committee last year with direct bribery. Mr. Peel made a lame and indiscreet defence, which called up Mr. Divett, the Chairman of the said Committee, in vindication of its impugned partiality. It was justly pointed out that Bribery Bills, however stringent their provisions, are a complete farce, if, after a man has been branded by a Committee of the House of Commons as guilty of the crime, Government may appoint him to a high judicial office. The remainder of the night was occupied in an interesting and instructive debate on the condition and prospects of the Christian population in Turkey, originated by Mr. Monckton Milnes, and kept up with considerable animation by Lord Dudley Stuart, Lord Claude Hamilton, Mr. Layard, Mr. Milner Gibson, and Sir Robert Peel. Much information was given on both sides, and the impression left on our minds was, that we are undertaking a war with most indefinite objects in view, and that the further we look into the policy of the Government, the less satisfied we are of its soundness. Twelve o'clock arrived before the House got into Committee, and then only to pass a resolution on the Income-tax *pro forma*, and to postpone discussion to Friday evening.

We have only time to add, that last night Mr. A. Pellatt, by a majority of one, obtained leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of oaths; and Mr. Whiteside, by a much larger majority, introduced a measure to regulate the disposition of property by ladies under religious vows.

THE CRACKLING OF THORNS.

THERE is a proverb of King Solomon's, which we do not like to quote in full, because we are going to give it a present application—but the tenor of which is to compare the "laughter" of a certain class of people to "the crackling of thorns under a pot." The same great author, or collector, of sententious truths, declares that "To everything there is a time and a season"—and plainly intimates that misplaced virtue is, for the time, a vice. He would, therefore, we have no doubt, have regarded the ill-timed hilarity of the wise as equivalent to "the laughter of fools,"—and so we justify ourselves in describing, by Solomon's comparison, the "reckless levity" of the Reform Club banquet to Sir Charles Napier.

If, reader, you have ever assisted at a picnic, or watched a gipsy camp-kettle, you know the sound and smell of "thorns under the pot;" you know how the half-dried, rough-coated, thick-barbed weeds splutter and spit at the taste of fire, and how nasty a smoke they emit to assail your every avenue of sensation. They do not burn up brightly, and with a jovial roar,—but flash and fume, and crackle: behave, in short, as unlike the honest log you would throw on a Christmas fire, as the whining of an idiot is unlike the hearty, sensible guffaw of a wise man in a merry mood. Now, really, without meaning to be cynical, this is the way we are affected by the report of the speeches at the aforesaid dinner. At very short intervals, all down the three columns of oratory in print, we come across the bracketed record of "laughter," "loud laughter," "immense laughter." We like laughter ourselves, as well as any—we are not over-particular as to the originality or salience of the jest meant to provoke it. But, really, this was not just what we should expect at a leave-taking of friends appointed to a high and perilous enterprise. We don't laugh at the sight of a house on fire or a railway train upset. We don't laugh in a hospital ward or an operating-room. True, the semblance of a smile will sometimes twist the facial muscles, when the agony of sorrow is at the heart—some ludicrous image will invade the memory at a moment of profoundest awe—a godly Cromwell, at the solemn moment of signing a king's death-warrant, will daub, with the inky feather of his pen, his neighbour's face;—but these are the hints of a mental law as yet undiscovered by the metaphysician—counterblasts, it may be, by which merciful Nature damps the fire that is burning up the life. No one pretends there was anything of this sort in Palmerston's jocosity, or Graham's blundering wit, which made the tables ring again; and which, nevertheless, was the farewell of English gentlemen to an old man going on a mission the most solemn that man can devise.

There would have been room enough for censure if the toasts had been drunk, as are those to the memory of immortals, in solemn silence. The presence of Cabinet Ministers at an entertainment precisely similar to that which the Cabinet, or its chief, had forbidden to be held elsewhere—the air of partizanship which was given to the naval appointments by the scene of the festivity—the unaccountable violation of international as well as constitutional etiquette involved in a dinner-table declaration of war—these are incidents on which the independent journalist could scarcely have refrained from commenting. But the gravamen of the offence lies, to our feeling, in the air of indecorous jollity which characterised the whole proceedings—the substitution for that sober, stern enthusiasm, which we admire in the greatest commanders on the eve of battle, of a boisterous merriment at the recital or anticipation of feats of animal courage and agility. A Pagan general never started on an expedition without first pouring out a libation to the gods—a Gustavus would strike his tents to the sound of spirit-swelling hymns—a Napoleon, a Nelson, a Wellesley, disdained to triumph before they fought. It was reserved for our times to inaugurate war with libations made only to Bacchus—and to invert the order of congratulation; or, if a parallel must be found, we shall find it in the cheers with which the Stock Exchange greeted, in 1803, the rupture of a peace that had lessened the gains of gamblers in the funds, and suspended the trade of pirate by proxy. The populace—by which term we mean the ignorant and unthinking of all classes—are ever too prone to applaud the man who fights as though he loved fighting—who pants for the opportunity of winning honours by the sword; ever too prone to prefer the victor in a battle to the statesman who has averted the battle. Now that we have resolved on war, it would be silly to tame that public sentiment on which we must rely to sustain war; but to pander to that brute passion which does not discriminate between war and the object of war, is the worst part a statesman of to-day can play—a part the most fatal to his own fame and his country's weal.

If there could be any doubt, after the display of Tuesday last, that this unhappy rôle Lord Palmerston has chosen for himself, it must have been dissipated by his lordship's speech and bearing on Monday night. To the question put by Mr.

French, Sir James Graham replied in a tone that may be described as pitifully apologetic: he made, with a bad grace, and an ignobly successful innuendo, the only excuse that could be made for a monstrous indiscretion. To Mr. Bright's strictures on the whole proceeding—strictures conceived in the spirit of the foregoing remarks, but expressed with an eloquent moderation that evidently impressed even where it angered—Lord Palmerston replied only with an insulting epithet, and a still more insulting declaration. In professing "indifference" and "contempt" towards the opinions of a gentleman representing the third city of the kingdom, the noble member for an obscure corner of the land outrages every theory of Parliamentary functions, as well as the rules of Parliamentary (and gentlemanly) debate. In this most discreditable escapade, the Home Secretary openly proclaims, what has often been but thinly disguised by flaming pretensions to opposite characteristics,—his utter disregard of any principle but that which it may suit him for the hour to assume; his utter insensibility to what should be held sacred in the business of legislation and the excitement of party conflict—sentiments inspired by true humanity or lofty statesmanship.

INTESTATE LANDLORDS AND LACK-LAND SONS.

WHEN David Copperfield suggested to Dora's father, of Doctors' Commons, that the business of the pleasant family parties held there for the administration of Church law, might, strictly considering the public advantage, be diminished—the plethoric Mr. Spenslow went into an argument drawn from the coincident prosperity of the public and the family party. The argument was climaxed by a quotation of the price of the bushel of wheat. "I have often since," remarks the autobiographer, "heard of that bushel of wheat."

He would have heard of it *ad nauseam* in the House of Commons on Wednesday last. Mr. Locke King had proposed the second reading of his "Bill to Amend the Law of Succession to Real Estates," by providing, in a single sentence, that, in the case of persons dying intestate, land should be included with other possessions in the grant of administration. By an act passed in the reign of Henry the Eighth, the observance of that feudal regulation, or usage, by virtue of which a man's landed estate passed on his death to his eldest son, was secured in the case of persons dying without a will. The changes in the preceding reign in the laws relating to the tenure of land—mainly, that permission to alienate or devise land, which was necessitated by the destruction of the aristocracy in the civil wars, and is justly ranked, by constitutional historians, among the epochs of English progress—had begun to have their natural effect: the promptings of parental equity had begun to prevail over the aristocratic sentiment which would have tied up the soil to one member of a family. It seems that, in alarm at this tendency, it was enacted that only where an actual devise had been made, should land pass from the first-born son. The custom of great landowners is to entail their estates for three lives—the limit which the law allows. Beyond this, despite the opinion of even so eminent a lawyer as Sir F. Thesiger, it does not appear that a man is restricted in the disposition of his real any more than of his personal property. It is the law of Henry the Eighth, giving unwilling estate to the eldest son, that is, in truth, the formidable law of primogeniture. And it was simply the repeal of this law—or an enactment tantamount thereto—which Mr. Locke King proposed.

How marvellously out of place, then, the hubbub which straightway arose!—Sir John Pakington solemnly censuring Ministers for having consented even to the introduction of the measure—Lord Louvaine charging republicanism upon its supporters—Lord John Russell seeing in it a platform from which to assail all the institutions of the country—and even Mr. Disraeli (lately so proud to have "no scutcheon but that of a gentleman of the press") predicting the destruction at once of great properties and popular liberties from this "first of a series of changes." Over a whole page of the morning papers did hon. gentlemen debate whether or not the acknowledged hardship of a whole family—save the elder son—being rendered penniless by the accident of their father's leaving an unsigned will, could be remedied without ruin to the country. To remedy such hardships was the single and entire object of the bill. It was presented, not as a tentative, but as a final measure. Neither its author, nor any of its supporters, made the slightest allusion to ulterior intentions—except to repudiate their entertainment. Equally gratuitous and disingenuous, therefore, were the objections drawn from the alleged mischiefs of the subdivision of the soil in France—where it is compulsory—and from the alleged benefits of the practice of entail in England. Mr. Drummond's owner of a single furrow—Mr. Henley's thirty-two joint proprietors of one ancestral tree—Lord John's peasant freeholder, with a Nor-

man pedigree—and Mr. Disraeli's flimsy theory of national life, deduced from a perverted reading of Continental histories—were all equally intruders in the debate. If it had been asked either to forbid the treatment of a landed estate as an integer—or to forbid its division among the divers members of a family—these points would have been relevant enough: as would also Mr. Bright's argument on the social disadvantages of large estates, and Mr. Bouvier's ironical eulogy of the system which encourages younger sons to become adventurers, by cutting them off from inheritance.

But, in truth, it was impossible to debate Mr. Locke King's proposition in its simplicity, without assenting to it—and equally impossible to give to that proposition legislative assent, without enunciating a principle that would be fatal to a landed aristocracy. No one denies the injustice of preventing the children of a man who has died intestate from sharing his property according to his probable intent—which must always be supposed to be in accordance with equity. It was necessary, therefore, to resort to special pleading. But this course was a delicate one. To say that great landowners never die before they have made their wills, or settlements that leave nothing to bequeath, would be to confine the hardship inflicted by the law to the children of small landowners, who do not make settlements—and thus to strengthen the case of the complainants. To say that the intestate landowner, if he had lived, would have ordered the sale or division of his real property, having of personal little or none—is to say that he would have done what the State is now asked to do for him. Yet both these assertions were made by the speakers of the victorious Opposition, in trying to keep close to the question. As if conscious of failure, self-inflicted, they, one and all, rambled into the larger subject,—and objected that the bill was a democratic encroachment on the good old English custom of giving Esau for his birthright a hunting-ground, and portioning off Jacob with a mess of pottage. But even here they could not be self-consistent. To say that it is not so much a legal principle as a social influence which it was attempted to alter, is to betray distrust of that influence; to confess the lurking fear that if once the Legislature declared primogenital rights fictitious, the father's conscience and the mother's impartial love would be too strong for the pride of ancestry and the ambition of local perpetuity. To say that the interests of the community required that land should not be cut up into strips, and that that would be the result even of a law intended to remedy very exceptional hardships—is to contradict the prior assertion that nothing would prevent Englishmen indulging their passion for adding field to field. Yet both these things were said! Of course, it was further hinted, if not said outright, that the throne, and the altar, the British constitution and the national credit, our Anglo-Saxon character and even our naval supremacy, are all bound up with that law of primogeniture which had been proved to require no amendment because it is no law. These same things are said at least twice a year—on this annual bill of Mr. Locke King's, and on Mr. Berkeley's motion for the Ballot. But as they were said for many years in succession when it was proposed to withdraw the legislative guarantee for the price of the bushel of wheat, we may confidently hope they will one day be said for the last time on this question of justice to the younger sons of intestate landlords.

MEDICAL REFORM AND LEGISLATION.

MEDICAL men are crying out for reform. It is important to ascertain what they want, because reform is not, of necessity, improvement.

All professions have, more or less, a character of clique-ism. The very professional tendency is towards exclusiveness, and professional interests become not unfrequently paramount, if not antagonistic, to the interests of the public.

Mr. Brady, of late, brought a Bill into Parliament for the purpose of effecting some changes, which medical men wish to obtain. He has withdrawn his bill to introduce another. It seems advantageous that, previously to the discussion of this bill, the public should understand what are their interests and their rights, in matters relating to medical practice; so that medical men should be prevented seeking anything but what is for the public interest, it being obvious enough that the real interest of the medical man is to be found in whatever tends to the interest of the public.

What do the public want? The free, untrammelled privilege of having their diseases cured. In realising this, they require to know to whom they can safely apply for the cure of diseases: that is, they require to know who are the parties that have been educated with the view of qualifying them for the cure of diseases. Medical men are those who have gone through a course of medical education, and, as so trained, have gained certain titles or legal distinctions, conferred after they have demonstrated in an examination before some

legally appointed medical or surgical examining body or court, that they have gained the knowledge which these examining bodies think necessary, to qualify the individual to practice either medicine, surgery, or both, as the case may be.

What medical men and what the public have a right to demand is this; that the latter shall have some means of knowing who are those persons who have gained the legal title to practise from having gained the knowledge deemed requisite by the medical examining bodies.

The plan to enable the public to gain this knowledge is extremely simple, and is one worthy of receiving the sanction of the Legislature. It is a registration of all medical men who have passed a medical examination; and appended to this the infliction of an effective penalty on any one, not so registered, who presumes to add to his name the title of "physician," "surgeon," "apothecary"—these titles belonging, in truth, only to those who have gained the degree of a physician; the diploma of a surgeon; or the licence of an apothecary. No one can complain of such a regulation; because, as these titles are indicative of the possession of a certain amount of medical and surgical knowledge and of medical qualification, to use these titles without having obtained the medical and surgical education indicated by them, is an attempt, on the part of any person using these titles, to palm himself on the public as the possessor of that which he does not possess; and, as in so doing, he performs an act of dishonesty and deceit, he deserves punishment.

This dishonesty is not at all unfrequent. In the metropolis are seen medical establishments, over which is painted in large letters, "Mr. Brown, Surgeon and Chemist." Now this Mr. Brown is no more a surgeon than is the coal-heaver who lives hard by. Mr. Brown practises this deception because the law does not prevent any person calling himself surgeon (and any one can be a chemist); and the people are led to believe this Mr. Brown is a regularly educated man, because he designates himself "surgeon." He does not designate himself "apothecary," because the law would then take hold of him, because no man can practise as an apothecary without the licence of the Apothecaries Company—a licence obtainable only after examination. But the law does not prevent the man prescribing as a surgeon and sending the prescription to himself as a "chemist," and he can, as a chemist, sell the medicine: and thus a man, quite uneducated medically, can practise with impunity his deceptions on the public.

Such a man ought to be punished, not because he practises medicine, but because he leads the public to believe, by the appending "surgeon" to his name, that he is a regularly educated medical practitioner.

Registration of all medical practitioners, and a penalty on all adopting titles distinctive of medical practitioners, without being such, would give the public the information the public have a right to demand.

The public, further, have a right to demand, that any medical man, examined before any of the various medical examining boards in England, Ireland, and Scotland; and found qualified, shall be at liberty to practise in any part of the United Kingdom; so as to allow them the full benefit of his medical or surgical skill: a condition of things which, at present, does not legally exist; for a physician, educated at the University of Edinburgh and there made a physician, has no legal right to practise in London; a surgeon, educated in London, has no right to practise in Scotland; and numerous other legal anomalies exist in violation of the right of the public to employ whom they choose for the cure of their diseases.

All medical men, wherever educated, ought to be placed on a legal equality. The distinctive features, indicated by the titles of physician, surgeon, and apothecary, prevail and will prevail till an universally diffused and equal medical education, gone through by all medical men, has removed from the public mind the existing feeling as to the relative capabilities of the different classes into which the profession is divided.

Medical men, if they were wise, would be content, for the present, with these three grants: a registration of all legally qualified medical practitioners; a penalty on all who, being unqualified, adopt the titles of qualified practitioners; and a right to practise by all qualified practitioners in any part of Her Majesty's dominions.

Medical men, unfortunately, are not, in matters of State, very wise. They ask too much, and thus get nothing. They attack the examining bodies (we do not defend them); but these would gradually be condemned by an effective system of registration.

But medical men have, unfortunately, not contented themselves with seeking to obtain their rights, but, under the exclusiveness of the professional spirit, have sought, to gain by legislative enactment what, if obtained, would be injurious to the interests of the public. Thus they have sought to enact, that no one shall be allowed to prescribe

medicine for the sick unless educated for the medical profession.

To justify this their demand, they say that they are injured by quacks and pretenders; they represent that they have spent a fortune in gaining a medical education, and these quacks, who have expended nothing, come and enter their domain. Medical men ought to see that, in thus arguing, they insult themselves. The medical education, for which they paid a fortune, is a benefit or it is not. If it is a benefit it is so, because the knowledge gained gives them a power to do what a man, medically uneducated, not having the knowledge, cannot do; and, consequently, the medically educated must, in the field of cure, be, if they spent their fortune in getting a good medical education, immensely more potent than the uneducated empiric. If it be true, as they assert, that they cannot compete with the empiric, they proclaim that the efficiency of their means of cure has not kept up a ratio with their medical education. They have, adopting their own statements, spent a fortune in learning a profession, and that fortune has been mis-spent: i.e., it has not given them the knowledge necessary to enable them to maintain that marked superiority in the market of cures for diseases, which their capital, if properly laid out, would have enabled them to realise.

The public have an undoubted right to have their diseases cured, and to choose those to cure them whom they please to employ. The public are sure to employ the regularly-educated medical practitioner first. If, however, the regularly-educated cannot cure their diseases, the public are not to be prevented seeking cure from other sources, not in connexion with the medical profession; for is a sufferer from disease to bow to the hopelessness of unceasing suffering for fear of wounding the *amour propre* of a profession?

Medical men must know that some of the most valuable of the recognised articles of the "Materia Medica" were brought into use by persons not medical. Medical men know that Cinchona bark was so named because, when the Countess del Cinchon had been treated ineffectually by her physicians for ague, she was cured by a slave, who administered to her the bark. Will any medical man dare to assert, that the Countess del Cinchon was to go about suffering from ague rather than receive God's gift from a hand not medical?

The public have a right to seek relief from their diseases where they choose; and any enactment that prevents this is a violation of the public rights and interests.

Medical men have put forth other untenable claims. They have wished to enact, that no one who professes his willingness to practise homoeopathy, hydropathy, or mesmerism, should be allowed to gain a diploma or a licence to practise. Such enactment must be opposed, because it runs counter to the interests of the public. All the medical examining bodies have a right to demand is, that the applicant for their honours should know all the matters which they deem necessary to be known to qualify a person to practise. If he possesses that amount of knowledge, they must grant him his title of qualification. They have no right, and the public will not allow them, to establish a medical inquisition like, as, a short time since, the Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh tried to establish in the case of Mr. Pope, who, because he would not promise not to practise homoeopathy, prevented him from gaining his degree. The case was brought before the patrons of the University, the Town Council of Edinburgh, by the English Homoeopathic Association, and the Senatus promised that their offence should not be repeated.

To conclude. It is to be regretted that medical men have sought to violate the interests of the public by another proposed enactment. They claim to themselves the right of expelling from their body any one who practises differently from that authorised by the medical creed of the majority. This infliction of a penalty by a professional body on a member of the body, can never be allowed. All questions embodying the infliction of a penalty must be tried by a jury of twelve unbiased men and not by partisans, as all professional men (such is the weakness of humanity) in collective capacity, invariably are.

Earnestly, then, are the public warned against the untenable claims of medical men; and equally earnestly are medical men advised to seek what is right and what they can gain, and nothing more. In such attempt they will be sure to succeed, and every step gained in this direction will give power to take another step, until all that is wanted will be gained.

Three failures are announced this morning—That of Messrs. Gladstone, Bond, and Co., general brokers, of Manchester, to the extent of about £80,000; Mr. Thomas M'Gregor, woollen warehousemen, in Cheapside, for about the sum of £50,000; and Messrs. Warwick, Harrison, and Co., also of Cheapside, shawl and silk manufacturers, for about £15,000.

Foreign and Colonial News.

THE SEAT OF WAR.

There seems to be no doubt that the Russian troops before Kalafat have made a retrograde movement towards Krajowa, either in consequence of Omar Pacha's movements at Rustchuck, or in consequence of the concentration of Austrian troops in their rear. Intrenched camps are being formed at Turna, Giurgevo, Oltenitza, Calarash, and Galatz, and everything indicates that the Russians in the Principalities are preparing for a defensive rather than an offensive war. In our postscript last week we published, with some hesitation, the explicit statement of the *Morning Herald*, to the effect that a special messenger had arrived from the seat of war, with intelligence of the taking of Kalafat by the Russians. The *Globe* of the same evening declared that there was not one word of truth in the statement, and advised the *Morning Herald* not again to place before the public circumstantial announcements which cannot but have their original source in wilful and deliberate falsehood.

An Austrian, who has just returned from Bucharest, thus reports relative to the state of things in the unfortunate principality of Wallachia. The people, Boyards and peasants, hate the Russians with a deadly hatred, and can hardly suppress their satisfaction when they see, by the large consignments of wounded men, that their oppressors are making no progress. "The foreign public has no idea of the losses which the Russians have sustained and are continually sustaining. Bucharest is little better than an immense hospital." This information is confirmed by a letter of the 27th of February, received by the *Medical Journal* from Wallachia. Wounded men are continually brought in from the bank of the river, and as almost all the wounds are inflicted with the bayonet or the sword it is evident that the men fight hand to hand. The complaint is made that the continued inroads of the Turks "by day and night" prevent all regular operations. Ague, dysentery, and typhus are more prevalent than ever, and the sick-list for January showed 13 per cent. "The February list, however, will give more than 16 per cent., as the engagements at Brailow and Oltenitza cost us 517 wounded men." By the time the men reached the regular hospitals the wounds are generally gangrenous. The skirmishes in Little Wallachia are so continual, that in Krajova and Slatina there is not an empty bed to be found in the hospitals. The spring, which is now rapidly approaching, cannot fail to bring with it the usual epidemic and endemic complaints. In the countries on the left or low bank of the Danube, this season of the year is always most trying to the constitution, and now symptoms of a dearth are beginning to appear, which will naturally make matters worse.

PREPARATIONS IN RUSSIA.

A letter from St. Petersburg of the 27th ult., describes the strenuous preparations making for the approaching war.

The garrisons of Helsingfors, Sveaborg, Frederikshamn, Rostschensalm, have been greatly augmented. That of Sveaborg, which the Russians are wont to call the Gibraltar of the Baltic, has been reinforced to the amount of 10,000 men. All the efforts of the Government tend to give to the impending struggle a character of religious ardour which is not that of 1812. Thus the Greek Cross appears everywhere as the sanctifying symbol of the present war, and on every side we hear the words repeated of "Orthodox faith," "Holy confidence," "Holy Russia," &c. Texts from the Holy Scriptures have come to be mingled with the jargon of the fashionable saloons. The Emperor himself adopts them in conversation of the most ordinary kind, and in all his public addresses, and he appears struck with the monomania of preaching and haranguing to all about him in a manner that is truly ridiculous. Very recently, and in presence of his whole Court, he delivered a sort of sermon, which terminated nearly with the following words:—"Russia, whose destinies God has especially intrusted to me, is menaced. But woe, woe, woe to those who menace us. We shall know how to defend the honour of the Russian name, and the inviolability of our frontier. Following in the path of my predecessors—faithful, like them, to the Orthodox Faith—after having invoked, like them, the aid of the Almighty God—we shall await our enemies with a firm foot, from what side soever they come, persuaded that our ancient device, 'the Faith, the Czar, and the Country,' will open to us, as it has ever done, the path of victory. *Nobiscum Deus! Audite populi, et vincimini; quia nobiscum Deus!*" The Imperial Court was astounded: it never suspected that the Czar possessed this biblical erudition, and could scarcely contain its astonishment. It never suspected that His Majesty was so profoundly versed in Scripture, or in the Latin fathers. It is certain that for some time past most people are convinced that something extraordinary is the matter with the Emperor, for while his memory appears not to have failed him, his other mental faculties appear to have been seriously affected. He has become sombre and morose to an intolerable degree.

RUSSIAN REPLY TO LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S SPEECH.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg*, of the 2nd inst., contains an important statement relative to Lord John Russell's speech of the 18th of February. It is spoken of as an "atrocious outrage," an unparalleled instance "of intemperance of language in the mouth of a cabinet minister respecting a Sovereign against whom the country of the speaker has not declared war." "It becomes henceforth self-evident that the peace of the world no longer depends on chance, but that war enters most decidedly into the plans resolved on by the English minister." The official organ then asserts that the English Government knew long ago of the views of the Emperor of Russia. What those opinions were is manifest from the following remarkable passage:—

Since the year 1829 his Majesty watched with serious attention the march of events in Turkey. The Emperor could not shut his eyes to the consequences of those

changes, which by turns were being introduced into the existence of that state. The ancient Turkey had disappeared, since efforts had been made to plant on its soil institutions diametrically opposed to the genius of Islamism, as well as to the Mussulman's character and habits of life—institutions more or less borrowed from the type of modern liberalism, consequently at open war with the very essence of the Ottoman Government. It became evident that Turkey was undergoing a complete transformation, that the issue of these experiments, at least doubtful as far as the re-organisation of the empire was concerned, announced rather the approach of a crisis capable of overwhelming it; that unexpectedly there might spring from it an entirely new order of things, which, still shadowy in its outlines, would in every case be the destruction of the present state of things, which would have become no longer possible. To these permanent and constantly increasing causes of dissolution there had recently been added the complications resulting from the affairs of Montenegro, from the religious persecutions exercised in several Christian provinces, from the misunderstanding with the Austrian Government, from considerable financial difficulties, and, lastly, from the serious affair of the Holy Places, to which the imperious demands of the French Ambassador at Constantinople were beginning to give a serious and threatening character. These complications, which fostered a secret fermentation among the Christian populations, were sufficient to give rise any day to some sudden catastrophe, which it was incumbent to foresee.

The apprehensions of the Emperor "relative to the dangers that appeared about to threaten the general equilibrium in Turkey at some future time, more or less near," were communicated to Sir Hamilton Seymour, in a long familiar conversation. In that conversation, we are told:—

There never was the question of a plan, in accordance with which Russia and England should themselves alone regulate beforehand the lot of the different provinces, of which the Ottoman empire is composed, still less of a formal compact to be concluded between them alone, without the knowledge and advice or intervention of the other courts. They confined themselves simply and purely to inform each other confidentially, but without reserve on either side, of what would be contrary to English interests, what to Russian interests, in order that, such and such a case being given, the hostile or even contradictory action of either might be avoided.

The noble leader of the House of Commons, who had allowed himself to be carried away by unjust prejudices, is then appealed to:—

Let Lord John Russell in particular, who has just proclaimed them in such unmeasured terms, read over again that correspondence, in which he was the first to take part, before he resigned to Lord Clarendon the direction of foreign affairs. Let him question his own conscience, if the blind passion that leads him astray still permits him to discern its voice. He can now decide if it is really true that the Emperor has failed in frankness towards the British Government, or rather if his Majesty did not use towards England the utmost ingenuousness; if there exists the least reason for believing in our ambitious and exclusive views respecting Constantinople, or whether, on the contrary, the Emperor did not explain himself in such a manner as to allow no doubt to linger respecting his real intentions upon the subject of the political combinations that were to be avoided, for the extreme case that he had pointed out at that time to the foresight of the English Government.

The *Times* helps us to interpret this mysterious reference. After the interview in question (says our contemporary), a correspondence ensued, not of an official character, and the secrecy of which does not concern the Emperor alone, but which disclosed in the fullest confidence the views of the Court of St. Petersburg with reference to the approaching dissolution of the Ottoman empire:—

What answer did he get to these overtures? What answer did he get when he sounded Lord John Russell, of all men in the world, on the subject of an eventual partition of Turkey? We confidently reply, that he was met by an indignant refusal on the part of the British Government. He was told, if we are not greatly mistaken, that this country could entertain no proposal in any form which pre-supposed the dismemberment of an empire the integrity of which we had frequently engaged to respect and even to protect; that the British Government strenuously opposed any change in the *status quo* of Turkey, as a source of danger and difficulty to the world; and that, as this communication had been made in a friendly spirit, England strongly recommended the Emperor of Russia to abstain altogether, and scrupulously, from any interference in the affairs of Turkey, which must be productive of great perils to the world. As these communications were of a confidential nature, and wholly anterior to and unconnected with the affair of the Holy Places and Prince Menschikoff's mission, the Government appear to have thought that they did not properly form part of the correspondence recently laid before Parliament, but constituted a separate transaction. This challenge of the Russian Government relieves them from all further uncertainty on that point. Lord John Russell's answer to the Russian overture will do him no dishonour; and, although in time of peace it might have been inconvenient to lay bare the pretensions Russia has sometimes indicated, our present relations are not likely to suffer from an "indiscretion" she herself has provoked; and we trust the whole correspondence will be immediately produced.

In addition to the above, another Russian statement has been put forth. The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 3rd publishes, in a supplement extraordinary, a circular addressed by the Russian Cabinet to all the ambassadors and diplomatic agents of the Emperor of Russia, giving an account of the negotiations on the Eastern question, and justifying, according to the opinion of the Russian Cabinet, all its proceedings. The circular fills not less than seventeen columns of the *Journal de St. Petersburg*, and is ten times as long as that prepared by M. Drouyn de Lhuys for the French Government with a similar object. The greater part of the Russian circular, however, consists of a history of the Eastern affair, interspersed with arguments which have all been brought forward in the notes of Count Nesselrode and the letter of the Emperor of Russia, published in the French and English journals. Throughout this historical review the desire for peace and the moderation of the Emperor of Russia

are spoken of, and he is represented as having been constantly thwarted by doubts, suspicion, and distrust, which he had done nothing to deserve; and it is endeavoured to make the world believe that the Eastern question has been brought to the state in which it now is, not by any refusal on the part of the Czar to make all the concessions which were compatible with his honour and dignity, but by the want of confidence in his declarations evinced by the French and English Governments.

Great complaints are made that Turkey was not made to accept the Vienna note, and still greater that Count Nesselrode's "examination" of that note, which fixed upon it the meaning ascribed to it in Turkey, should have been given to publicity. On this point the circular speaks of "a culpable breach of confidence, the source of which is unknown to us."

THE GERMAN POWERS.

The distrust felt as to the position of Prussia on the Eastern question has been increased by the publication of a semi-official article in the *Prussian Correspondenz*, the pith of which is as follows:—Prussia has clearly shown its position relative to the contending parties, by its co-operation at the Conference of Vienna. It will continue to keep firmly that position, but will enter into no engagement for armed intervention. Prussia will maintain a neutral attitude of expectation, so as to preserve peace in Central Europe, that she may later be enabled to act towards both parties in the spirit of reconciliation.

The deputies from the Baltic provinces of Prussia to the Second Chamber of that State have been so alarmed by the inclination towards Russia betrayed by the Berlin Cabinet, that they met on the 8th, and drew up a memorandum for presentation to the foreign minister, setting forth the great damage to the commerce and agricultural interests of Prussia, which must ensue from a policy contrary to that of the Western Powers.

At the meeting of the Prussian Legislature on Monday, the President of the Second Chamber inquired what course the Government intended to take in the impending war. M. Manteuffel answered that the Government will soon make proposals to the Chamber, which will give an opportunity of explaining the course hitherto taken by the Government, and in which it will persevere. Prussia is on terms of amity with France and England.

The following is the substance of a telegraphic message from Vienna, dated Monday evening:—"Austria was invited to join the Western Powers in an alliance against Russia. Austria forwarded the proposition to Prussia, with modifications to the following effect:—She does not feel herself called on to join the Western Powers in a declaration of war against Russia, but is prepared to sign a convention for securing the integrity of Turkey in the spirit of the treaty of 1841. Austria will maintain peace in Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia, leaving it to the Western Powers to care for Greece and the Greek provinces in Turkey. It appears from an article in the *vest. Correspondenz* that Prussia approves this."

THE INSURRECTION IN ALBANIA AND EPIRUS.

The insurrection does not appear to make much progress. On the 23rd of February the citadel of Arta was still in the hands of the Dervend Aga, and the insurgents, who have no artillery, have suffered very severe losses in their repeated attempts to take it by storm. The insurgents, who have neither pay nor rations, ill-treat even the Christians if they do not supply them with food, and this makes the movement most unpopular. Emissaries are very active in Thessaly and Macedonia, but hitherto without effect. 8,000 troops will soon be concentrated against the insurgents, under Hussein Bey. Two battalions of regular troops have already been landed at Salonica, and another two thousand, with three batteries, are daily expected. The Turkish Government has forwarded copies of the documents which are in its hands, relative to the conspiracy and insurrection in Albania, to their agents in Vienna, Berlin, Paris, and London. The papers leave no doubt as to the influence which led to the outbreak.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

When the *Retribution* dashed into the harbour of Sebastopol so gallantly the other day, one of the officers, Lieutenant O'Reilly, took a sketch of the forts, and subsequently made a plan therefrom. On the 6th ultimo, he presented them to the Sultan.

The Turks at Kalafat are noticed by military men for their zeal, docility, and courage. Their style of working at entrenchments is something amazing to the orthodox military mind. The men actually carry earth to the ramparts in their great coats and bedding, and bear great burdens of soda to the works in the most cheerful manner.

M. Louzon le Duc mentions a singular proof of the zeal of the Czar for the orthodox faith. The young Caucasian prisoners and hostages, whom he educates in Russia, are brought up as strict Mahometans, in order that, on their return to Circassia, they may be well received by their parents, whom they may indoctrinate with the ideas of Russian clemency. So strict is the regulation, that if any ask to be baptised as a Christian, the request is rigorously refused.

It is positively asserted, in a well-informed circle, that the Porte decidedly objects to the occupation, even temporary, of any portion of European Turkey by Austrian troops, and that Omar Pasha has made strong representations on the subject to the Government.

The Servian Government declines the interference of Austria, and has given notice that any attempt to violate its territory will be resisted, from whatever side it may come.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* has published the appointments in connexion with the army in the East. Marshal St. Arnaud is Commander-in-Chief. Marshal Vaillant is

appointed Minister of War in his place. The first division is to be commanded by General Canrobert. The second by General Bosquet. Prince Napoleon commands a corps of reserve, having for the chief of his staff Colonel Desmarets, his first aide-de-camp.

The *Moniteur* contains the terms of the new loan. It will be made by public subscription; the Four-and-a-Half per Cents. at the rate of 92f. 50c., and the Three per Cents. at the rate of 65f. 25c. The loan is very popular with the *Siciles* and the democratic classes generally in consequence of its having been thrown open to the public, instead of being placed in the hands of a few great capitalists, according to the usual custom. There is no doubt whatever of the sum being subscribed for, even if it were four times the amount. 200,000,000 have already been taken in Paris alone, and persons of the slenderest means, servants and working men, are desirous of having a share. The operation is familiarly termed a *coup d'état*, or a *Deux Décembre financier*.

On Monday the budget for 1855 was presented to the Legislative body. The receipts amount to 1,559,913,440f., and the expenses to 1,553,922,075f. There will, therefore, be an excess in the receipts to the amount of 5,992,365f.

The *Moniteur* announces the arrival of the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, on "a confidential mission from His Majesty the King of Prussia to the Emperor of the French." The object of the "mission" is believed to be to give explanations about the neutrality of Prussia, and to declare that this neutrality means nothing hostile or unfriendly to France nor favourable to Russia.

The Emperor has named M. de la Cour his Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Naples; and Baron de Talleyrand-Perigord and the Marquis de Ferrière-le-Vayer in the same capacity at the Courts of the reigning Prince of Baden and the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Emperor of Austria arrived at Munich on the 8th. He is to be married in May.

It is stated that Austria and France have agreed to demand from the Sardinian Government "guarantees of tranquillity, the removal of the more dangerous refugees from the frontiers, and restrictions on the press."

Several earthquakes have just taken place in Calabria, and have excited great alarm. The damage done is immense. The number of persons killed exceeds 2,000.

Matters are improving at the River Plate. In the Oriental Republic, the country appeared to be undergoing a recovery from the disastrous effects of the late rebellion. The civil war seems to be entirely at an end, and the Brazilian Protectorate in full course. There was a strong Brazilian fleet stationed at Montevideo.

A telegraphic despatch in anticipation of the overland mail arrived on Monday bringing advices from Bombay to February 14th, from Hong-kong to January 27th:—The condition of Burmah is rapidly improving. Dacoite is declining, and there is promise of an abundant harvest. The Nizam's country is overrun by bands of predatory horse, which are being hunted down by detachments of the contingent. The Auckland had returned to Bombay from the Persian Gulf, and left all quiet at Bushire, Teheran, and Bagdad. Shanghai will soon be retaken by the Imperialists.

The Court at Madrid is so alarmed at a growing alienation of the people, that, in order to save the throne, there is a talk of putting Espartero at the head of affairs as a last resource.

Sir James Wyllie, for so long a time the chief physician to the Russian Court, has just died at St. Petersburg. He is reported to have bequeathed the entire of his very large fortune to the Emperor of Russia.

Abbas Pacha, the viceroy of Egypt, is seriously ill. The Italian papers announce the death of the once greatest of tenors, Signor Rubini, which took place on the 2nd instant, at Romano, in the province of Bergamo. He was 60 years of age.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

DEPARTURE OF THE BALTIC FLEET.

On Friday the Queen passed through the fleet on her way to Osborne. Portsmouth was thronged with visitors, who threatened to create a famine in the old sea-port. Great crowds were present to see Her Majesty embark at Portsea. The weather was hazy, but shortly after a thundering salute had been fired from the twenty "wooden walls" at their moorings at Spithead, the sun burst forth.

The first division of the fleet left Spithead on Saturday, in the presence of the Queen and Royal Family, and amid the cheers of thousands of spectators. The fleet comprises eight screw line-of-battle ships, four screw and four paddle-wheel ships of inferior rank, making a total of sixteen war-steamers; of which two—the *Duke of Wellington* and the *Royal George*—are three-deckers, while three carry Admirals' flags—Sir Charles Napier's in the *Duke*, Admiral Chad's in the *Edinburgh*, and Admiral Plumridge's in the *Leopard*.

SCREW LINE-OF-BATTLE SHIPS.

	Guns.	Men.	Horse-power.
The Duke of Wellington	131	1,100	780
The Royal George	121	990	400
The St. Jean d'Acre	101	900	650
The Princess Royal	91	850	400
The Monarch	80	660	450
The Hague	80	660	450
The Ajax	68	630	450
The Edinburgh	58	630	450
Total	680	6,420	4,030

SCREW FRIGATES.

	Guns.	Men.	Horse-power.
The Imperieuse	50	530	360
The Arrogant	47	450	360
The Amphion	34	320	300
The Tribune	30	300	300
Total	161	1,600	1,320

PADDLE-WHEELS.

	Guns.	Men.	Horse-power.
The Leopard	18	280	560
The Dragon	6	200	560
The Bulldog	8	160	500
Valorous	16	220	400
Total	48	660	2,020

There is thus not a single ship in the division dependent upon sails alone for propulsion, while there are twelve, including all the liners and the four largest frigates, which, being screws, are equally available as steamers or sailing-vessels, or as both combined. The *Cressy*, of 80 guns, and the *Baryalus*, of 50 guns, are to join to the squadron in the Downs, thus increasing the number of men actually despatched to the north to 10,160, the horse-power to 8,170, and the guns to 1,019. Of the naval force which for the last few weeks has been mustering at Spithead only three vessels remain. The *Neptune*, the *Prince Regent*, and the *Boscawen* stay behind to form the nucleus of the second division, which is immediately to assemble there, and, under the flag of Admiral Corry, to follow Sir Charles Napier to the Baltic. Sir Charles Napier will have under his command a fleet of forty-four ships, manned by upwards of 22,000 men, mounting 2,200 guns, and propelled by a steam power of more than 16,000 horses. Of the ships, only six will be unaided by steam. These are the *Neptune*, 120, the *St. George*, 120, the *Prince Regent*, 90, the *Boscawen*, 70, the *Monarch*, 84, and the *Cumberland*, 70—noble vessels of the old school. With respect to the reserve naval power of the country it is stated, that thirty additional first class men-of-war could almost at once be put into commission, and our dockyards and private establishments could enable us to show to the world results at least twice as great as those which the last few months have yielded.

The weather, on Saturday, was very auspicious at Portsmouth—a bright sky and a steady west wind favouring the spectacle. At 10 o'clock Sir Charles Napier was obliged to submit to the delay of receiving an address from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Town Council of that sea-port. The Guildhall was crowded. After the Mayor had made a short speech, in which he spoke of the gallant admiral "as one of the greatest men of the age;" the Town Clerk read the corporation address, from which the following is an extract:—

Great indeed is the responsibility which rests on you, and great are the expectations and anxieties with which the British people will be filled while you are engaged in the difficult and perhaps perilous duties to which your Queen and country call you. In those duties may the God of battles aid and prosper you; and may the combined force under your control, fighting in cordial union in a righteous cause, succeed in materially assisting to bring the warfare to a speedy and decisive issue!

You, and the equally brave and gallant men who will rally round you, will have the earnest aspirations, not only of the inhabitants of this borough, but of the whole people of the United Kingdom. We wish you "God speed," and pray that the war which has been thus needlessly forced upon Europe may eventually result in a still more lasting peace, check the barbarous policy of aggression, and promote the civilization of the world.

Sir Charles Napier, who was vociferously cheered, said in reply:—

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen.—When I tell you that I have had only twenty-four hours to get ready to go afloat, you will not be surprised if I decline to make a long speech; however, I beg to thank you for this very kind and handsome address. I believe it is not usual when a man goes abroad to have addresses of this kind presented to him, but all I can say is this—that I will do the best to prevent the British flag from being tarnished. I know a great deal is expected from the fleet, but, gentlemen, you must not expect too much. (Cheers.) We are going to meet an enemy well prepared. I am sure every officer and man in the fleet will do his duty gloriously; but, at the same time, I warn you again that you must not expect too much. (Cheers.) The fleet is a new one; the system of warfare is new; great consideration is required to ascertain how it is best to manage a fleet urged by steam. The system of warfare is entirely different now to what it was formerly; but we will do our best (cheers), and I am sure I shall remember to the last day of my life the kindness of the people of Portsmouth. (Loud cheers.)

The Corporation in their robes then went in formal procession to the Victoria Pier in order to be present at his embarkation. Sir Charles, again enthusiastically cheered on his way, arrived there about 11 o'clock. He had no little difficulty in embarking, in consequence of the crowds of people. The *Sprightly* had been appointed to take Sir Charles on board his flagship, but she could neither get alongside the pier herself, nor could her boat for some time approach it. At length, however, he got safely off, and, from the Platform Battery, and every other point on the Portsmouth shore which commanded a view of the embarkation, loud cheers resounded, and the old Admiral seemed much affected by the extraordinary marks of sympathy and confidence towards him thus evinced.

During the entire morning the ships of war had lain quietly at their anchorage as usual, with nothing apparently to disturb their grand repose. It was observed that there was no getting up of steam, or other indications of speedy departure. About a quarter to 1 o'clock, the *Fairy* was observed to leave Cowes. As she neared the fleet, a Royal salute blazed from each ship with bewildering effect, the *Duke* setting the example, and being followed immediately by the rest. Hardly had the smoke been rolled off by the west wind, and the roar of the guns died away, when thrilling

cheers arose, not from the yard-arms, manned in the formal fashion of piping peace times, but from the rigging, in which the men swarmed like bees, while the marines presented arms upon each quarterdeck, and the bands on board played the National Anthem. Arrived at the head of the fleet, the *Fairy* signalled that her Majesty would receive the captains of the different ships, instead of herself visiting the *Duke of Wellington*, which seems to have been previously contemplated. In a few minutes they were on their way to the Royal yacht, and their boats, added to the other craft afloat, presented a highly animated picture. Sir Charles Napier, with Commodore Seymour, Captain of the Fleet, was foremost in paying his respects to the Sovereign. As he went and came, he was loudly cheered by thousands of spectators from crazy old tubs of steamboats, that rolled about as if they were drunk with the enthusiasm of their living freight. The other admirals and captains followed, and, when all were returned, the signal to some of the nearest ships was given to weigh. Then the huge sails were quickly shaken out, and it became apparent that the steam fleet was about to put to sea under canvass alone. It was nearly two o'clock before the first signal was given to weigh from the huge flagship of the Commander-in-Chief, and by three o'clock she herself had left her anchorage. The *St. Jean d'Acre* went first, then the *Tribune*, *Imperieuse*, *Blenheim*, *Amphion*, *Valorous*, *Princess Royal*, *Edinburgh*, *Ajax*, *Arrogant*, *Dragon*, and *Hague*, in the order stated. The *Royal George* and the *Duke of Wellington* followed, the clear sunlight brightening up their canvass as they glided majestically onwards. Last of all came the *Leopard*, under steam, like the rest of the paddle-wheel squadron, while the screws all weighed under single-reefed topsails, topgallantsails, jib and driver. When on the sea they formed in line. The *Fairy*, having accompanied the first part of the division for several miles, as far as the Nab-light, was stopped, and the *Queen*, with a regular flotilla of boats and steamers around her yacht, saw ship after ship under easy sail pass by. Each crew mounted once more into the rigging to give her a round of parting hurrahs, and topgallantsails were lowered. When the *Duke of Wellington* approached the Royal yacht, the rest of the fleet were already dim and faint in the distance. Though under no press of canvass, the brisk west wind had carried them well out to sea, the *Royal George* fitly closing in the receding line with her huge hull and spreading sails. The crew of the flagship had now in their turn to give their farewell cheers. They sprang up the rigging with astonishing rapidity, not stopping according to custom at the cross trees, but mounting upwards until the most adventurous spirits had reached the very summits, for the honour of possessing which they struggled. One daring fellow coolly seated himself upon the truck of the maintopmast, where, with one hand he waved his cap in cheering, while he held the other arm extended, to show that he was unsupported. The hurrahs from the crew of the *Duke of Wellington* at bidding farewell to their Queen and country will long ring in the ears of all who heard them. Her Majesty stood waving her handkerchief towards the mighty ship as she departed; and for a long time after the whole fleet had gone the Royal yacht remained motionless, as if the illustrious occupants desired to linger over a spectacle calculated to impress them so profoundly.

There is much speculation, of course, in naval circles as to the probable plan of operations. The more ardent of the gossips speak boldly of the bombardment of Cronstadt, and point to a large quantity of Moorsom's shells shipped as a proof that serious mischief is meant. It appears that the construction and materials of this terrible projectile is a Government secret, and so important is it deemed, that each ship's supply is numbered and registered in a book, and whenever one is used, the why, the when, and the place, is carefully noted down, and the details forwarded to the Admiralty. This, it is said, looks like bombardment; but the more cautious shake their heads, and say, that to attack Cronstadt with its 800 guns would be sheer madness. Others again speak of blockade, and a third hint at the capture and occupation of the Island of Aland, as commanding the Gulf of Finland, and at once settling the doubtful neutrality of Sweden. In support of this hypothesis, it is alleged that sappers and miners go out, and that the ships take out a supply of scaling ladders and other siege accessories. A few months will put to rest all these speculations.

The South-Eastern Company despatched a vessel from Dover to meet the fleet, which first sighted it at 1 p.m. on Sunday, disposed in two long lines, as nearly in mid-channel as possible, the colossal *Duke* leading the outer line, closely followed by the *St. Jean d'Acre*. The weather was as favourable as could be wished; not a cloud was to be seen, and the sea was almost unrippled. The fleet passed Dover at 3 p.m.

A royal proclamation against building or fitting out ships on her Majesty's dominions for the service of foreign powers appeared in Friday's *Gazette*.

On Thursday, the Artillery force destined for service in the East, consisting of twenty-four guns, 1,085 officers and men, and 929 horses, under Colonel Oator, was minutely inspected by Prince Albert, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge and Lord Raglan. Woolwich Common was crowded with spectators. The equipment of men and horses is described as admirable; everything being new and of the first order. Experienced officers were heard to say that they never saw such fine serviceable horses.

The *Morning Chronicle* states that a second expeditionary force of Artillery, under command of Lieutenant Strangways, will embark very shortly after the first detachment—sixty-two pieces of ordnance, of various calibre, ranging from twelve to twenty-four pounders, are to be sent out to the East to be employed en position.

The Sappers and Miners intended for service in Turkey embarked on Thursday, from Woolwich. Two

officers, a sergeant, and nineteen rank and file, go out in the *Duke of Wellington* for service in the Baltic. It is also stated that two brigades of infantry will accompany the fleet.

Transport ships are fitting out for conveying the cavalry. The Admiralty has given notice at Lloyd's, that eight more ships will be required for conveying troops to Malta—they will be engaged for four months certain.

Prince Albert has suggested the use of a greatcoat by the officers, the same colour as that worn by the men of the Guards; as the blue cloak is a mark for rifles. This coat has great advantages over the blue cloak.

By advices from Malta of the 5th inst., we learn that the British contingent of forces to the East had arrived. Every disposable place in the island had been converted into barracks or quarters for men and officers. It does not seem certain when they will proceed to Turkey. The utmost excitement prevailed throughout the island. "The only people on whose faces joy does not beam, are those whose fate retains them from active service."

All the Scotch seaports are anticipating a complimentary visit from the Russians. Leith harbour is undefended; but by the erection of a battery on Inchkeith Island, at a cost of £3,000, it is said the harbour might be secured, and the navigation of the Firth of Forth commanded on the island. The proposition is to have a revolving battery, mounting twenty-four 68-pounders.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION OF IRISH MEMBERS.

The committee for inquiring into the charges of corruption against Irish members met again on Thursday, when Dr. Gray handed in a list of persons who had spoken to him in a confident manner of the selling of places by Irish members. There were six in all, including Mr. Keogh, Solicitor-General for Ireland; whose statement was both general and particular, and who spoke to witness of "Paddy Somers, and those fellows who lived by selling places;" and Mr. Stonor, barrister, the gentleman mentioned in the report of the Sligo Election Committee. The conversation with Mr. Stonor occurred prior to the unseating of Mr. Towneley, the member for Sligo; and he (Mr. Stonor) had since been appointed to a Colonial Judgeship at Melbourne, as witness understood.

Mr. Lucas was again examined; but he declined "to give the committee any clue whatever to enable them to follow out the inquiry in any way."

Mr. William Keogh M.P., and Solicitor-General for Ireland, said he had no recollection of having spoken of "Paddy Somers, and those fellows who live by selling places;" but he would not say he had not. A postmaster of Ballymote, in the county of Sligo, had bought a place; but being dismissed for irregularity, demanded from the Postmaster-General the restitution of what he had paid. A prosecution was ordered, and the man got off with a fine of £30. Nothing came out on that occasion to implicate Mr. Somers. In reply to Mr. Moore, Mr. Keogh said he had heard his speech at Ballina; it lasted from eight till eleven—"I did not speak for more than sixteen minutes or so."

Mr. Moore: "Did your speech not contain a distinct charge of place-selling?"

Mr. Keogh: "I don't at all think it did. There might have been a charge of selling the country; which you all know is a very different thing." (Loud laughter.)

Mr. Keogh did not recollect talking about the appointment of Dr. Power to Dr. Gray; indeed, at the time a sort of quarrel existed between himself and Dr. Gray.

In reply to questions from Mr. Bright he said:—

It was true of both sides of the House, that after an independent member asked patronage of the Government, he felt disposed to support them. In fact, no man of honour could take a favour from a Government and then go and vote against them.

Mr. Bright: "Being now a member of the Government, you speak, I suppose, from experience?"

Mr. Keogh: "I speak of what I know; but I am sure there is no one better able to corroborate what I say than Mr. Bright."

Mr. Vernon: "If you accepted your present office, and gave the Government the benefit of your abilities, did you accept it with any view to bestow patronage upon any parties to whom you are under any obligation, or with whom you are in any way connected?"

Mr. Keogh: "Most certainly not."

On Friday there was another scene before the Committee. Mr. Lucas, M.P., was called upon to explain his allusions to Mr. Keogh, Solicitor-General for Ireland (who was present as a member of the Committee).

Mr. G. E. H. Vernon: I believe you have mentioned, in the course of this inquiry, that you think Mr. Keogh stands in the position of being principally accused. How do you make that out?

Mr. Lucas: All this arises out of speeches made at Tuam, which had reference to a system involving dishonourable conduct of every degree.

Mr. Vernon: Pray define your meaning a little more accurately when you apply such terms to Mr. Keogh.

Mr. Lucas: I mean making promises and taking oaths which were deliberately broken. (Sensation.)

Mr. Vernon: I wish you distinctly to inform this committee whether you now apply the term "corruption" in any sense of trafficking in places?

Mr. Lucas: I refer to it in that sense in which the committee understood it when they went at great length on two days into the case of Dr. Power, of whom it was alleged that he sold himself for a place.

Mr. Vernon: Then the term "dishonourable conduct and corruption" is to apply to every hon. member who takes office under a Government which you disapprove?

Mr. Lucas: Nothing of the sort.

Mr. Vernon: What, then, do you charge?

Mr. Lucas: I charge a gentleman with making promises and taking oaths which he has not kept. (Sensation.)

Mr. Vernon: From corrupt motives?

Mr. Lucas: I charge corrupt conduct.

Mr. Henley: What corrupt conduct?

Mr. Lucas: I mean taking a place in December, 1852, after Mr. Keogh's antecedents.

Mr. Vernon: Then it does resolve itself into taking a place under a Government which you disapprove, such a course being inconsistent, as you believe, with antecedents?

Mr. Lucas assented.

The *Standard*, of Feb. 22, published an anonymous letter from "An Elector of the county of —," containing the following:—"I think it an act of justice to one of our county members to state, that a report is very general and believed that he received a sum of £2,000 by the satisfying of a judgment to that amount against his property by Mr. —, who had been his solicitor, and to whom he was unquestionably heavily indebted for procuring his appointment to the lucrative situation of —." It seems that the names of Mr. Nagle and Mr. Roche were originally in the letter, but were struck out by Dr. Giffard, the editor of the *Standard*, who was examined on Saturday. He acknowledged that he did not know from whom it came. He did not think it would give pain to the persons indicated if they were innocent of the charge.

Mr. Bright: Have you not inserted scores of letters reflecting on the characters of public men, being entirely ignorant of the character of the persons from whom you received those communications, and the names and addresses of the writers?

Dr. Giffard: I have inserted a great many articles that I have believed to be harmless, or interesting and useful, without knowing the name of the writer. I deny that this letter would injure any man's personal character.

He believed that the offence charged in the letter had been committed, but did not presume to fix it upon any individual.

Mr. Napier, the late Attorney-General for Ireland, was then examined, but his evidence was of a general nature, as to the distribution of patronage in Ireland, and that places were given for political support. As far as the members of the bar were concerned, they stood little chance of promotion from pure merit alone.

Mr. Roche, to whom the charge in the letter of the *Standard* was supposed to refer, denied that there was authority or foundation for the imputation. The room was then cleared, and on the re-admission of the public the chairman said that there was, in their judgment, no imputation on the character of Mr. Roche from what had occurred, and they would insert it on the record. They adjourned to Tuesday.

AMERICAN NOTES.

News has been received from the Isthmus of Darien relating to the exploration going on there. On the 24th the French and English party set out; they had been preceded by the American party. At the present the statements are to the effect that the route proposed is impracticable for a ship canal.

Russian agents were said to be busy in the Atlantic ports making arrangements for privateers. There were three officers at New York ostensibly superintending the construction of the screw-propellers ordered by the Emperor of Mr. Webb; but the *New York Herald* professes to know that their object is to fit out Russian privateers. The feeling caused by those reports in the Atlantic States is very cheering. The press generally expresses indignation at the attempt; declares that the United States will treat privateers as pirates, and trusts that France and England will adopt the same course. A telegraphic despatch in the *New York Herald* states that the British and French Ministers had an interview with Secretary Marcy on the 23rd ult., for the purpose of protesting against the fitting out of Russian privateers in the United States. It was also understood that they informed the secretary that such vessels would be treated as pirates by their respective Governments.

All America is at this moment agitated by the "Nebraska question." The subject of the dispute may be thus described:—To the west of Iowa, extending to the very base of the Rocky Mountains, lies a large tract of country, known as the Nebraska Territory, with a boundary of 4,000 miles, and an area of 500,000 square miles—and capable of forming twelve States, each as large as the State of Ohio. A bill is now being carried through both houses of Congress for the admission of this territory into the Union; and in this bill is a provision guaranteeing to the inhabitants the privilege of holding slaves. This provision is held to be an infraction of an arrangement (known as the Missouri Compromise) entered into between the Slaveholders and Abolitionists in 1820, at the time of the admission of Missouri as a slave state, and which was so admitted on condition that every state or territory admitted after that date should be free from the institution of slavery. The Abolitionists and Free soilers are vehemently opposing the bill.

The movement in the United States in favour of Ocean Penny Postage is progressing encouragingly. It is fast winning the sympathy and co-operation of all classes of the community. Public meetings have been held in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Providence, and other large towns, at which the mayors have generally presided and many influential citizens have taken part in the proceedings. Elihu Burritt has addressed the members of the Legislature of Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island, in the respective capitals of those States; and the project has been received with great favour. He proposes to visit most of the States of the Union for the purpose of laying the subject before their Legislatures, with the hope that they will instruct their representatives in Congress at Washington to exert their influence in behalf of the measure proposed.

The Woman's Rights Convention was opened at Albany on the 14th ult. Several hundred men and women were in attendance. The Rev. Miss Brown, from the business committee, read a series of resolutions, setting forth, among other things, "that it is time for the people of the United States to put away for ever that remnant of despotism and feudal oligarchy—the caste of sex."

THE LABOUR PARLIAMENT AND PRESTON STRIKE.

The convention which was to inaugurate an industrial revolution, has held its sittings in Manchester during the past week. It at no time consisted of more than forty delegates, four of whom were from London and four from Manchester; and the meetings by which they were appointed seem, in all cases, to have had a ludicrous disproportion to the class they profess to represent. Monday and Tuesday were occupied in preliminaries—the principal features of which were the reception of a "message" from the committee of the National Labour Movement; and the appointment of Mr. Ernest Jones, with three others, to draw up a scheme of organisation.

The "message" opened with a history of English industry, from which it passed to an argument on the evils incidental to machinery, and to the enunciation of the following propositions:—

- 1st. That the labourers ought to participate more largely in the enormous wealth created by their own industry.
- 2nd. That labour ought to be made independent of the vicissitudes of capital from bankruptcy, over-production, and foreign competition.
- 3rd. That the working classes should not be dependent on capital which is not their own.
- 4th. That the labourer ought not to be made an article of trade, but that moral considerations and brotherly love should enter into the relation between employer and employed.
- 5th. That surplus labourers, and loss of employment through labour-saving machinery, be compensated for by the State.
- 6th. That physical labour, its monotony, hardships, and dangers, be equitably shared by all, and not borne exclusively by one class of society.
- 7th. That the working classes be provided with ample means and time for the education of their children.
- 8th. That no women and children be put under the heavy yoke of physical or factory labour.
- 9th. That in all trades the hours of work be reduced to such a minimum as will allow the labourers sufficient time for moral and mental culture, and suitable recreation.
- 10th. That the working classes be fully secured against oppression on the part of retail dealers and provision merchants.
- 11th. That such an organisation of labour be introduced, as, through a variety of employments, will destroy monopoly, and render labour attractive, healthy, and less dangerous to all.
- 12th. That the land be restituted to the people, and placed in the hands of the State.

The organisation committee brought up their report on Wednesday. It is a document evidently not prepared at an evening sitting; an elaborate and rather ingenious scheme for raising, guarding, and expending a National Labour Revenue. It was determined that a levy of about twopence in the pound should be made on all operative adherents of the movement. Besides providing for the maintenance of existing and future strikes, it was proposed to pay debts so incurred within the last twelve months—a provision against which there was a minority of ten (including the Preston delegates) against nineteen votes. Clause B of the scheme provided for a department for "ascertaining and regulating the price of labour." Mr. Ernest Jones, in a long speech, moved clause C, as follows:—

"That, while the working man has an undoubted right to participate in the profits of the employer, he has a right higher still,—that of employing himself; and that, for the purpose of self-employment, as also for the purpose of more effectually regulating wages by removing the power of surplus labour from the employers' hands, the funds of the mass movement be further employed in the purchase of land. That the estates be purchased in the names of individuals, not being members of the directing body. That the estates be divided into farms, varying in size according to the nature of the soil, and the purposes to which they are to be applied; viz., whether as individual tenancies or large co-operative undertakings. That the said lands be retained by, and never alienated from, the mass movement. That the land be let to tenants on short leases, and at a fair and moderate rental. That a clause be inserted in the lease, whereby any tenant making default in payment of rent shall immediately lose his right of tenancy. That a further clause be inserted whereby the tenant binds himself to pay the rental to the parties appointed by the deed of assignment hereafter named. That the parties in whose names the estates are bought execute a deed of assignment, whereby the tenant shall pay the rent, not to them, but to the individuals then being directors of the mass movement. That the directors of the mass movement for the time being shall execute a deed, binding themselves in a penalty of £5,000 each, to two individuals not being purchasers of any of the estates, to be forfeited should they not, at a given time, be identical with that of their expiration of office, execute a deed of assignments of the said rental to certain individuals, being their successors in office, the details thereof to be further specified in the constitution of the mass movement."

Mr. Petzler moved an amendment, to the effect that the funds of the mass movement should accumulate until the year 1860, and then be applied in sending ten millions of the working classes to America; but that if, by that time, the fund had not accumulated to £5,000,000, the emigration scheme to be replaced by a plan for independent self-employment. Mr. M. Elheran seconded the amendment; but, after some discussion, it was, at the request of several delegates, withdrawn, and the original motion was unanimously adopted. Mr. Naded addressed the delegates in French, expressing his approval of the objects of the labour parliament, and believed it would have a beneficial effect. (Mr. Louis Blanc had promised to attend, but sent a letter of excuse.)

Mr. George Cowell made a report respecting the strike. He thought about 500 had been imported into Preston, chiefly from Ireland, and that about 5,000 had left Preston. He, and also Mr. J. M. Lean, said the fears were at one time entertained by some of the lock-outs at Preston, that the operations of the labour parliament would interfere injuriously with the position of affairs at Preston; but, when he returned, he should disabuse the minds of any who so thought, for he believed the services of the labour parliament would be of the greatest advantage, to the working classes.

On Saturday was witnessed a new and remarkable feature in the history of the Preston strike. The factory operatives of Preston and of Blackburn assembled, in thousands, on a piece of ground situated near to Houghton-tower. Houghton is about midway between the two towns, which, by the turnpike-road, are eleven miles apart. The Prestonians arrived on the ground at three o'clock, having with them two bands of music.

and several banners. They had to wait two hours for the Blackburn people, who were at work until two o'clock, and then had six miles to walk. The Blackburnians also displayed their banners, and were attended by three bands. When the two parties met the most deafening cheers rent the air, and rendered the brazen instruments inaudible at the distance of only a few yards. So vast was the multitude that it was quite impossible for all to stand within the reach of any speaker's voice; consequently, a considerable number betook themselves to dancing and other amusements. All the banners unfurled on the occasion bore inscriptions appertaining to the struggle, the following being among the number:—"Ten per cent. and no surrender; a fair day's wage for a fair day's work." "Peace, law, and order." "Cursed is he that defraudeth the labourer of his wages," &c. The proceedings commenced with a song, one verse of which is subjoined as a sample of the rest:—

You may see, of a truth, that the people are not dead,
Though 'twas said that they died long ago;
But we've risen from our sleep a holiday to keep,
Determined to work under price no more.

CHORUS.

So we've put by the reed-hook and the comb,
And hung up the shuttle on the loom;
And we'll never be content
Till we get the ten per cent.,
In spite of their "let well alone."

The Chairman (Mr. Cheetham, of Oldham) said, they were met there that day because a portion of the authorities of Preston had thought fit to prohibit their meetings in the borough. They were disposed to keep the peace, and had no desire to come in collision with any party. Mr. Grimshaw said: "I ask the Blackburnians, is Preston to be subdued for want of your money? (Cries of "No, no!") No; methinks I hear the whole of Lancashire exclaiming that the operatives of Preston must never be allowed to go in short of a full 10 per cent." All the speakers pointed out the paramount importance of the preservation of the peace. The immense multitude set out on their return home shortly after 6 o'clock, the music of the bands cheering them on the way.

Another monster meeting was held at Hoghton on Sunday; even special trains being employed to bring up the women and children, and the more distant contingents. People were present from every town within twenty miles. The proceedings had something of a religious character, opening with and closing with hymns. The speeches, however, were all for the 10 per cent., and a show of hands was taken. Two thousand pounds was announced as the sum brought up by the delegates.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. JUSTICE TALFOURD.

On Monday morning Mr. Justice Talfourd opened the assizes at Stafford. His lordship had reviewed the calendar, and was directing attention to the number of charges of highway robbery which it contained:—

These crimes (he said) come—I will not say exclusively, but in the far greater majority of these cases—from those districts which are the most rich in mineral treasures, where wages are high, and where no temptation of want can for a moment be set up as an excuse or palliation for the crime; on the contrary, I have observed in the experience I have had of the calendars of prisoners tried at these assizes—an experience, many of you are aware, extending far beyond the period of my judicial labours—I have observed that in times of comparative privation crime diminishes, and that, when wages are high, and are earned by a less degree of work, there is a strong temptation to spend them in vicious indulgences, and that crime has increased almost in proportion to the state of prosperity by which the criminals have been surrounded. This consideration should awaken all our minds, and especially the minds of gentlemen connected with those districts, to see in what direction to search for a remedy for so great an evil. It is untrue to say that the state of education—that is, such education as can be furnished by the Sunday-schools, and other schools in these districts—is below the general average; then we must search among some other causes for the peculiar aspect of crime presented in these cases. I cannot help myself thinking, it may be in no small degree attributable to that separation between class and class which is the great curse of British society, and for which we are all more or less in our respective spheres in some degree responsible, and which is more complete in these districts than in agricultural districts, where the resident gentry are enabled to shed around them the blessings resulting from the exercise of benevolence, and the influence and example of active kindness. I am afraid we all of us keep too much aloof from those beneath us, and whom we thus encourage to look upon us with suspicion and dislike. Even to our servants we think, perhaps, we fulfil our duty when we perform our contract with them—when we pay them their wages, and treat them with the civility consistent with our habits and feelings,—when we curb our temper, and use no violent expressions towards them. But how painful is the thought, that there are men and women growing up around us, ministering to our comforts and necessities, continually inmates of our dwellings, with whose affections and nature we are as much unacquainted as if they were the inhabitants of some other sphere. This feeling, arising from that kind of reserve peculiar to the English character, does, I think, greatly tend to prevent that mingling of class with class, that reciprocation of kind words and gentle affections, gracious admonitions and kind inquiries, which often, more than any book education, tend to the culture of the affections of the heart, refinement and elevation of the character of those to whom they are addressed. And, if I were to be asked what is the great want of English society—to mingle class with class—I would say, in one word, the want is the want of sympathy."

It was while giving utterance to these noble sentiments that his auditory became greatly alarmed by the changed aspect of the venerable speaker. His head fell on one side, and in an instant it was apparent that he had been seized by apoplexy. As quickly as possible the associate took off his lordship's wig and untied his neckerchief, and he was carried out of court by Earl

Talbot, Dr. Holland, Dr. Knight (the latter two of whom were on the grand jury), and the associate. His lordship was removed to the Judge's Lodgings, and was attended by Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, Bart., Dr. Holland, and Dr. Knight; but their professional assistance was of no avail, his lordship having faintly groaned, breathing his last the moment he was placed on the bed. The consternation produced in court by the sudden seizure of his lordship, and the announcement of his death immediately afterwards, cannot easily be described. His loss is deplored by the bar, by all the members of which he was beloved, and by the public at large.

Law and Police.

The only interesting law case of the week furnishes another illustration of the working of the law of unlimited liability. On the 27th of January, it was mentioned that Vice-Chancellor Stuart had given an important judgment, to the effect that a certain shareholder in a concern called the Sea Assurance Company was not liable to be sued for a fresh call, he having already paid the amount of his shares in full, while there were many shareholders who had only paid part; the deed of the company, moreover, having stipulated that no one should be liable beyond his subscription. The affair at the time attracted considerable attention, since not only the judgment itself, but the remarks by which it was accompanied, seemed to warrant an impression that the Joint-Stock Companies Act afforded more of the advantages of the system of limited partnership than had hitherto been supposed. It now appears, however, that an appeal was made to the Lord Chancellor, and that a fresh judgment was delivered on Thursday, reversing the former one. The course of the affair has, therefore, been, that the order was first made by a Master in Chancery, that it was declared void by the Vice-Chancellor, and the money directed to be restored, and that it has finally been re-established by the Lord Chancellor, the whole costs of the proceedings falling as an additional weight upon the few shareholders in the entire concern who have been found capable of paying a farthing. One good effect, however, has resulted, inasmuch as, from the observations of his lordship, the public are now given clearly to understand that the impression hitherto entertained, that there is no legal way of escaping unlimited responsibility in such cases is perfectly correct, and that all statements that may be put forward to the contrary, in the prospectuses of speculators, are to be regarded as gross attempts at delusion. In the present instance, it was decided that, even according to the terms of the deed entered into by the shareholders of the Sea Assurance Company among themselves, there was no clause that could exonerate any party; but, putting that point on one side, the Court took the opportunity of distinctly pronouncing, that no construction of the Joint-Stock Companies Act, nor any deeds, agreements, or notices that may be entered into or published by shareholders, can have the slightest effect in shielding them from the full personal liability for every claim that the creditors of the undertaking may be able to establish.

The assizes have cleared off several cases that have been for some time before the public, and have brought out, as usual, a number of crimes against the person.

At Aylesbury, Moses Hatto, described in the calendar as a groom, aged 25, was indicted for the wilful murder of Mary Ann Sturgeon, at Burnham, on the 1st of November. Mr. O'Malley and Mr. Power prosecuted; Mr. Parry (specially retained), Mr. Metcalf, and Mr. Wroth appeared for the defence. The prisoner is a good-looking man, with an intelligent countenance, and appears to be about thirty years of age. The evidence was mostly a repetition of what was published at the time of the inquest, strengthened by a statement which the prisoner had signed:—"I live with Mr. Goodwin, in the capacity of groom. Mr. Goodwin left home at six, and returned at a little after eleven last evening. I was in the kitchen when he returned. I had my supper between eight and nine. The deceased was there part of the time. She went into the house. I went to bed as soon as I had had my supper. About a quarter before eleven I heard a noise, like a rumbling against a door. I then lay down, and in about a quarter of an hour afterwards I heard the dogs barking. I got up and called to Bunce, the foreman, and he got up. There were some colts loose in the yard. We walked round the premises, but could not see or hear any one. I then went and tried the passage door, near to the kitchen, where I was, and it was fastened, and there I remained till Mr. Goodwin came in. He came shortly afterwards. I told him that, as the dogs had been barking, we went to see if any one was about the premises. Mr. Goodwin went in at the door on the north front. I do not know of any door being unfastened. I used to have words with the deceased, because she wished me to do more work than I thought I could do. I got wet in going round the yard, and changed my clothes. After Mr. Goodwin came home, I assisted to take water up stairs to put the fire out, which was in the maid-servant's room. I then saw the body lying with the legs off and burnt, and blood against the door. I threw gravel up at the window of the deceased's room before Mr. Goodwin came home, but I could not hear her. I do not know anything of the poker produced. There was a light in the deceased's room. The blind of the window was down. I do not know that she had any followers." Lord Campbell, in summing up the evidence, said there could be no doubt that the deceased died by violence. The important question was whether the prisoner inflicted the blows which caused her death. There was no direct evidence to show that the prisoner committed the crime. It was a case of circumstantial evidence; and, where such evidence is clear and con-

vincing, it was just as safe to act upon it as direct evidence of guilt. The rule he should lay down was, whether there were circumstances uncontested and inconsistent with prisoner's innocence. Upon suspicion alone they could not judge, nor upon wrong suspicion. If they had reasonable doubt, the prisoner must have the benefit of it. If no reasonable doubt, however painful, they must convict him. After an absence of three hours, the jury returned and gave in a verdict of Guilty. The judge then put on the black cap, and proceeded to pass sentence. "I entertain," he said, "no doubt of your guilt. A murder, one of the most barbarous recorded in the annals of the country, has been committed, and you must forfeit your life for it. You must expect no mercy in this world, but prepare for another. I beseech you to repent of your crime, and prepare for the awful change that awaits you." Sentence was then passed in the usual way. At the conclusion, when the Lord Chief Justice earnestly entreated him to make his peace with God, as there were no hopes of mercy for him in this world, Hatto raised his hand to his head, made a respectful bow to the judge, and said, "Thank you, my lord." [The condemned has since made a confession of his guilt; but the confession is evidently partial, the extenuating circumstances related being quite irreconcilable with the evidence.]

At Durham, the servant girl of Mrs Thompson, the wife of a master mariner at Sunderland, was indicted for the murder of her mistress's child. On the 18th of June she disappeared, taking with her the deceased, and no tidings could be obtained of her. On the 19th of December she came with the child and a man to a lodging-house in Bishop Auckland, and on the 2nd of January she and the child were admitted into the workhouse of that town. Her manner was rough and unkind to the child, and marks of blows were observed on its person. On the night of the 4th, the prisoner said the child was in a fit, and the medical officer attended it. Next morning she was found with the child on her knee, quite dead. On examining the body, a fracture of the skull appeared to have been the cause of death. Several witnesses, among whom was her brother, testified that she was insane, and the jury returned a verdict of *Not Guilty* on the ground of insanity.

At Lincoln, Christopher Barker, a pig-jobber, was charged on the coroner's inquisition, with the murder of his own son; but the grand jury having returned a bill for manslaughter only, no evidence was offered on the inquisition. He pleaded *Guilty* to the indictment, and after a solemn and affecting admonition from Mr. Justice Coleridge, was sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

At Hertford, a Spaniard was indicted for the murder of a lad, the son of a labourer. The prisoner not making any reply to the court, a jury was empanelled to decide whether the prisoner stood mute of malice and wilfully, in order that the trial might not take place, or whether he was mute by the visitation of God. They found to the latter effect, and the judge postponed the trial to the next assizes.

At Chelmsford, a woman named Bareham pleaded guilty to a charge of assaulting her illegitimate child. She left her home with the infant on the 30th January, as it was supposed, for the purpose of going to the Union Workhouse, but it appeared that on her way she placed the child behind a large heap of manure, by the road side, and abandoned it in that condition. The weather was very inclement at the time, and but for the poor child having been fortunately discovered by some passers by, its life would, in all probability, have been sacrificed. She was sentenced to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for two years.

Twelve men, found guilty at Northampton of having entered, armed for the purpose of taking game, a certain wood of the Right Hon. Vernon Smith, and also assaulting the gamekeepers there, were sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, and at the expiration of that period to find sureties to keep the peace for one year. The prisoners formed part of a body of about about thirty poachers, who were out on the night in question. When first seen by the keepers, the latter were not numerous enough to attempt their capture; but about two hours afterwards the keepers, reinforced, advanced upon the poachers, who, at the signal "Up, up," formed into a kind of battle array. After a conflict, in which the poachers were somewhat severely handled, they were captured, together with their spoils, which consisted of one hundred and fifty-seven rabbits, thirty-one hares, and five hundred yards of netting.

The three men, Marshall, Saunders, and Myers, charged with the robbery of Mr. Mathews, jeweller, of Leighton Buzzard, were brought to trial at Bedford on Saturday. It was stated in evidence that, before the robbery, Marshall rejoiced in luxuriant carrotty whiskers and beard; whereas, after it, he appeared with a smooth cheek and chin. Since his capture it was shown that he had allowed his beard and whiskers again to grow, and, up to the previous night, they quite answered the description "carrotty;" but on his appearance in the dock, they would more properly have merited the description of a "dark-rich auburn." This sudden metamorphosis being stated in court, the Chief Baron called up the governor, and, having learnt from the officer that he "believed the prisoner had dyed his whiskers and beard last night with ink and grease, to which he had had free access," directed that the prisoner should be removed and well washed. While this operation was in progress much interest was excited as to what would be the result. At the expiration of about ten minutes the governor made his triumphant re-entry into the dock, followed by Marshall with a flaming pair of whiskers and beard, thus exemplifying the propriety of the experiment. The jury retired for half an hour, and returned with a verdict of *Guilty* against all the prisoners. His lordship, after enlarging upon the audacity and magnitude of the offence committed by Marshall and Saunders,

sentenced them to be transported for twenty years, and awarded to Myers a similar sentence, but for fourteen years only.

At the same assizes, Abel Burrows, aged thirty-seven, was indicted for the wilful murder of Charity Glenister, on the 25th of November last, at Heath and Reach, near Leighton Buzzard. The prisoner, who was not represented by counsel, when called upon to plead "Guilty" or "Not Guilty," said, "I don't know. If I am guilty I was insane at the time." It will be remembered that Charity Glenister, an old woman of seventy, who lived with the prisoner and his wife, and was most barbarously murdered by him without the least provocation. After the fatal deed was done the prisoner gloried in it, singing out frantically, "Glory, glory to the Lord! Hallelujah!" A surgeon who had attended the prisoner for a cold on the 23rd of November, deposed to the fact that the prisoner had complained to him of indefinable fears (a state which was occasioned by excessive drink), and he was cautioned to take care what he did, or he would be insane. The same gentleman was called in after the murder, and said he was satisfied from his demeanour the prisoner was suffering from mania, but knew what he was doing, though he could not distinguish right from wrong. Another surgeon proved that, eighteen months ago, the prisoner was suffering from *delirium tremens*, and was so violent as to require five or six men to hold him down. The surgeon of the gaol proved that, when first committed, the prisoner was very violently excited, and though in about three weeks he became perfectly calm, and had continued so ever since, he was then utterly unaccountable for his actions. The prisoner, when called on for his defence, stated he had nothing to say; but the governor of the gaol handed in a written defence, setting up that his aunt had died insane, and that it was well known to John Attwell and others that he was at times also insane. His lordship left it to the jury to say whether they thought the prisoner was in a state of mind at the time he inflicted the blows on the deceased to render him responsible for his acts. If not, they would acquit him on that ground. The jury deliberated a few minutes, and then retired for half an hour, at the expiration of which period they returned into court with a verdict of *Guilty* of wilful murder. The prisoner, on hearing the verdict, said, "The Lord's will be done." The Chief Baron then passed sentence of death upon the prisoner in the usual form, and he was removed from the dock without betraying any apparent perception of his awful position.

The atrocious and unusual crime of attempting murder by starvation is alleged against a father at Southampton. George Chisman Elmes, on the death of his wife, took lodgings with Mary Ann Wake, a widow, and his child lived with them. She was kept on dry bread, in a room without a fire, for three months in the depth of winter. When she died, she was beaten by her father or Mrs Wake. When the father took his meals, his daughter was compelled to stand with her hands tied together. The poor girl fainted during the examination before the magistrates. The crowd were so enraged at the conduct of Elmes, that it required a strong force of police to protect him.

Frederick de Molyns, formerly member for an Irish county, and Lucia de Molyns, his wife, have been committed at the Mansion House, on a charge of uttering a forged power of attorney to transfer the share and interest of Richard Annesley Simpson, in Stock and Annuities for £1,520 11s. 5d., with intent to defraud the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. Mr. W. S. Kay, stock-broker, detailed the steps taken by the prisoner to obtain the money, including the sending of a burial-certificate of one of the parties in whose name the money stood, and the power of attorney with the forged signature of Simpson the survivor. Witnesses proved that the signature was not Simpson's. The policeman who arrested De Molyns deposed that he denied his name. The money was found on him. In his defence, De Molyns said the money belonged to him, and he did not intend to commit such an act. His whole proceedings, he added, were not those of a man conscious of guilt.

C. R. Hawkins, a gentleman of property, aged 70, has been remanded from Southwark police-office, for marrying two wives; the last was only 20, and he wedded her six months since.

A respectable man, named Howard, has been twice examined on the charge of robbing the Camden-town mail-cart, having previously drugged some liquor of which he induced the driver to partake.

Two men, Austin and Denton, were brought before the magistrates of Edmonton on Thursday last, by Mr. Thomson, charged with breaking one of the windows of the Independent Chapel, Southgate. The charge was proved against Austin. Denton was acquitted—not proven. Austin was sentenced to pay a fine of 10s., with damage and costs, or in default of payment to go to the house of correction for fourteen days.

The Irish assizes present several cases of interest. At Louth, the judge remarked on the extensive existence of Ribbonism, which has even "its affiliations and branches—its receiving-houses—in England, where a man red with the blood of his fellow-man, the murderer flying from justice, may be sheltered for a while, until he eludes the vigilance of the police, and is placed beyond the reach of the law."—At Monaghan, three of the persons implicated in the barbarous murder of Mr. Bateson, which took place so far back as December, 1851, were put upon their trial on Monday—the Attorney-General for Ireland conducting the prosecution in person. It was not until early on Thursday morning that the case finally closed. The jury, who had been locked up from the previous night, handed down a verdict of *Guilty* against Neal Quin and Bryan Grant for the murder, and against Patrick Coomey for counselling and inciting them to commit it. —John Delany, the owner of the *California*, emigrant ship, lost off the coast of Achill, and George M'Nally,

captain, were both found guilty, at the Mayo Assizes, of manslaughter, in having caused the death of seventeen of the passengers. They were sentenced, the former to eighteen months' imprisonment, and the latter to nine months'.—And at Wexford, the widow of Samuel Boyce, lost on board the *Queen Victoria*, off Howth, in February, 1853, obtained a verdict of £400 damages against the City of Dublin Steam Navigation Company, the owners of the vessel.

Accidents and Offences.

Mr. James Haywood, teacher of chemistry at the Wesleyan College, Sheffield, when preparing for his lecture, on Wednesday evening, broke a large bottle of sulphuric acid, which fell over his person. He himself fell forward on the floor of the laboratory, inflicting a deep gash on his hand with the broken bottle, and lay for several minutes breathing the poisonous fumes. He was afterwards removed, but died early on the following morning.

A fire broke out at Messrs. Bielefeld's papier maché warehouse, a lofty pile of buildings at the corner of Wellington-street North and Exeter-street, Strand, on Thursday night. When first discovered, the fire was raging in the upper floor, and speedily the flames burst through the roof. The engines of the London Brigade and West of England Company arrived on the spot in rapid succession, but from want of water, and the combustible nature of the stock, it was some time before the firemen obtained the mastery over the flames. The upper part of Mr. Bielefeld's premises was destroyed, and the adjoining houses considerably damaged. Mr. Albert Smith was in the crowd, recounting to Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., his experience of a fire he saw at Pera, when in Constantinople, and Mr. Charles Dickens was encouraging the firemen in their labours. Mr. Charles Mathews was here, there, and everywhere. The warlike spirit of the mob was curiously expressed during the fire by the men employed at the engine-pumps singing in chorus, by thousands, "Rule Britannia," and other national songs.

The following is the verdict of the coroner's jury which inquired into the lamentable colliery accident at Wigan:—"We find that the deaths of the 89 persons under consideration were occasioned by an explosion of fire-damp occurring within the workings of the Arley Mine, at the Ince-hall Colliery, on Saturday, the 18th ultimo. We find the explosion occurred in or close to Pilkington's drift, and was ignited, as we conceive, from Pilkington's shaft. The origination of the gas which exploded was, we believe, from a sudden and accidental outburst from some point not far from the seat of the explosion; and we would point to the fall in Woodcock's-place as the only likely source shown for the emanation of such an outburst. We give it as our opinion, that the general management and ventilation of the mine in question, from the time of the former lamentable explosion to the present has been satisfactory, and the system of working, under the peculiar circumstances of the pit, unexceptionable. Under the circumstances of these awful explosions, we would strongly recommend the managers that, as far as possible, the use of gunpowder in the working-places within the mine be wholly discontinued."

A fire, with fatal results, broke out on Thursday night in the house of a Mrs. Parsons, milliner, at Bath, after the shop was closed. The only person on the premises was a young woman, named Holder. It is imagined, that by some accident a portion of the millinery or other articles of an inflammable nature caught fire, or that an explosion of gas took place. In her fright, it would appear that the young woman, instead of endeavouring to extinguish the fire, or calling for assistance, rushed up stairs to rescue Mrs. Parsons's infant, aged between ten and eleven months, which was sleeping in an attic of the house. This apartment is reached by a spiral staircase, up which the flames ascended with fearful rapidity and accumulating force, effectually cutting off all chance of escaping by the entrance to the street. A vain attempt was then made by Miss Holder to escape by the attic window, but by this time the flames had burst from the drawing-room and shop underneath, and the unfortunate girl was driven back into the attic, where both she and the infant were suffocated. The bodies, on discovery by the police, presented a frightful aspect. The child was clasped in the arms of Miss Holder, and both exhibited the usual distressing symptoms of this dreadful death. The fire was speedily extinguished by the brigade.

Court, Personal, and Political News.

The Queen held a levee on Wednesday, which was largely attended by officers of both services. A Privy Council was held on Thursday, after which Lord Aberdeen, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Granville, and Sir James Graham had audiences of her Majesty. The Queen and Royal Family left Buckingham Palace on Friday morning, as early as nine o'clock, and proceeded by railway to Gosport; whence embarking on board the *Fairy*, her Majesty steamed through the line of ships forming the Baltic fleet, which as she passed along thundered their pealing salutes. Followed by the *Black Eagle* yacht, the *Fairy* bore its royal burden to Osborne.

The Duchess of Gloucester is a little better.

The Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay, M.P., has arrived in the Albany, from Brighton.

The Viscountess Stratford de Redcliffe and the Hon. Misses Canning have left Grosvenor-square for the English Embassy in the Turkish capital, *via* Paris and Malta.

Lord John Russell is suffering from a cold, which prevented him leaving his house on Thursday and on

Friday. His lordship was consequently unable to be present at the Cabinet Council held on the latter day at the Foreign Office, Downing-street. The noble lord was better on Sunday.

The Garter vacant by the death of the Marquis of Londonderry is to be bestowed on the Earl of Ellesmere.

Sir John Pakington, finding that his Parliamentary duties interfere with the performance of his duties as Chairman of Quarter-Sessions, has announced, in a letter to Lord Lyttelton, that he will preside at the ensuing Easter Sessions for the last time.

The Bishop of London is recovered from the slight attack of indisposition under which he has laboured, and has resumed his episcopal duties.

Mr. W. Forster, the celebrated philanthropist, brother-in-law of the late Powell Buxton, has fallen a sacrifice to fever in Tennessee, in the States, whither he had proceeded to promote the emancipation of the negroes.

At a recent meeting of the friends of Tenant Right in Drapers-town, Londonderry, Mr. Sharman Crawford publicly severed himself from all connexion with the Tenant League. The Tenant League, he said, seems an Irish emanation of the Carlton Club, and he would not identify himself with the enemies of all reform. He advised the people not to contribute to the League, but to keep their money, and to use it when wanted for purposes connected with their own country.

Oxford has sustained the loss of another Head of a House. Dr. Jenkyns, Master of Balliol for thirty-five years, in the seventy-second year of his age, died on Sunday week. It is said of Dr. Jenkyns, that he "found Balliol a close college, among the least distinguished of the collegiate bodies of Oxford; he left it almost entirely open, and confessedly the foremost of all." In 1834, he set aside the system of nomination, and established merit as the sole standard. In politics Dr. Jenkyns was a Conservative. He held the Deanery of Wells, given to him by Sir Robert Peel in 1845. It is said "he has left a host of friends to mourn his loss, and he has not left a single enemy."

We have reason to believe that the vacant Deanery of Wells has been conferred on the Rev. G. H. S. Johnson, Fellow and Tutor of Queen's College, Oxford. Mr. Johnson was one of the members of the late Oxford University Commission.—*Times*.

The death of Alderman Thompson, the member for Westmoreland, was notified in the city on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Thompson was a director of the Bank of England, chairman of the St. Katharine Docks, and a director of the Globe Insurance Company, the Marine Insurance Company, the Blackwall Railway, and other important undertakings. He was also chairman of the Society of Merchants Trading to the Continent, president of Christ's Hospital, and senior alderman of London.

It has been definitively settled that Lord Adolphus Vane will be brought forward by the Conservatives as their candidate for the representation of the Northern Division of Durham County, vacant by the elevation of Viscount Seaham to the peerage. The Liberal party have determined on contesting it with the noble lord, and have selected three gentlemen, one of whom will be their candidate, namely, Mr. Henry Fenwick, who not long ago contested Sunderland and the city of Durham; Mr. Williamson, son of Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., of Whitburn; and Mr. Lambton, a cousin of the Earl of Durham.

The election at the East India House took place on Thursday, at which the Court of Directors decided upon the fifteen members of their body that are to remain in office under the new law requiring their number of thirty to be reduced to fifteen. The choice fell upon Messrs. Ellice, Oliphant, Mills, Smith, Bayley, Mangles, Princep, Eastwick, Sykes, Sir H. Willock, Sir J. W. Hogg, Shepherd, Melville, Astell, and Macnaghten. The directors not re-elected were—Sir J. L. Lushington, Sir R. Campbell, Messrs. Wigram, Masterman, Muspratt, Shank, Cotton, Plowden, Dent, Moore, Marjoribanks, and Whiteman. Three seats had previously been vacated by the death of Sir R. Jenkins and the retirement of Messrs. Loch and Alexander.

Miscellaneous News.

PLAIN SPEAKING.—The *Courier and Church Reformer* thus writes respecting the recent Church-rate seizure at the house of Mr. Miall:—"Churchmen—what think you appeared in the *Nonconformist* of Wednesday last, the organ of political Dissent, the enemy of your Church? Mark, learn, and inwardly digest the following:—[Is there a man amongst you, having the slightest respect for his Church, that does not feel his ears tingle, and his cheeks burn, on reading this?] You, Churchmen, encourage these abominable proceedings. You, Churchmen, are the abettors of legal robbery. You, Churchmen, are the greatest enemies of your Church, in permitting such a scandal to go forth to the wide world. Oh! will not our enemies rejoice? will not the infidel chuckle over rapacity that seeks to satisfy its lust under the guise of our holy faith? Do you think that the receivers of the rates will be the parties abused? Oh, dear no! it is your Christianity that has to bear the scandal—your Saviour that has to submit to the scorn. Your God is reviled for the sins of his people. Are these things then to be? Are they to be endured for ever? or, will you arise and scatter them to destruction? Let the latter be your resolve—let your minds be made up to fight the good fight; and not all the powers of corruption will be able to defeat your great and holy purpose."

Mr. Vincent has given six lectures on popular topics to crowded audiences at Gravesend; and the week after next commences six on "The Protestant Reformation in England." He has also delivered lectures to very large meetings at Plymouth, Stonehouse, Devonport, and Liskeard, in Cornwall; and this week closes

his Commonwealth lectures at Faversham, in Kent. At the latter place the meetings have comprised all classes, the second lecture having been presided over by the vicar of the parish. On Thursday and Friday last, Mr. Vincent also lectured to large audiences at Bridgenorth, in Shropshire. In spite of the rumours of war, the work of spreading Liberal principles progresses, and increasing numbers of the people crowd to assemblies that bear upon our political and ecclesiastical interests.

There are now at Southampton, on their way to Liberia, in Africa, four liberated slaves from Cuba. Their names are, Vicente Oball and his wife Marced Alquez, and Augustin Garcia and Lugardia his wife. They lived in Cuba twenty years, about twelve of which they were in slavery. They have saved some money, and paid their passage to Southampton in the West India mail-boat *Magdalena*. They are negroes of the Lucianic nation, with pleasing and intelligent countenances. They are exceedingly well-behaved and worthy persons. They must have been stolen from Africa when young, as they are scarcely middle-aged now. Lord Clarendon having had the case brought under his notice, has ordered the Admiralty authorities in that town to see that every care is taken of them at the Government expense, and has promised them a free passage to Africa.

At a meeting of the Society of Merchants trading to the Continent, held on Thursday, resolutions were adopted setting forth "the inconvenience and great risk" of excluding the joint-stock banks from the general clearing-house, and of obtaining the consent of the bankers to the proposal of the Bank of England not to commence payments over the counter earlier than ten.

The Committee of Private Bankers on Thursday negotiated, by a majority of 13 to 10, a proposition to admit the joint-stock banks to the clearing-house. As in last June only two voted in favour of the concession, it is evident that the question is rapidly hastening to the long-desired solution that would be most creditable to the bankers and advantageous to the public.

9,112 immigrants and liberated Africans were introduced into the West Indian colonies (chiefly British Guiana and Trinidad) in 1863. Most of the immigrants came from the East Indies, Madeira, and China. Up to Michaelmas the year's immigration from the East Indies into the Mauritius amounted to 8,937.

The directors of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, have given the usual notice to the Board of Trade of their intention to open the Crystal Palace branch for public traffic on the 1st of April. On the opening of this branch passengers can alight at the new station close to the Crystal Palace.

According to the authority of the *Galway Packet*, the Celtic race is fast disappearing even in its western stronghold. The editor has just completed a tour through Jar Connaught and Joyce's country, and for miles, he says, the traveller could not see a human habitation—all was utter desolation; not a trace of farm cultivation, and in lieu of houses nothing remained but heaps of stones and unroofed gables. Whenever the writer met an inhabited dwelling, it was a miserable hut, in which Englishmen would hesitate to lodge their hogs.

Dr. Gavin, who has been down to Leeds on behalf of the Board of Health, says, in a letter addressed to the mayor on Wednesday, that, having made extended and minute inquiries into the amount of choleraic disease which has recently taken place, he has ascertained that there have been thirteen deaths and twenty-four cases of cholera and collapse, besides several cases of diarrhoea. So far as can be judged from the cases reported, the disease is abating. There has been only one case reported since Tuesday. The number of ascertained cases, including diarrhoea, has been about forty, of which sixteen have terminated fatally. The cholera has simultaneously broken out at Limerick and neighbourhood. At Kanturk it is very severe—the patient does not suffer from either spasms or cramps, but is carried off in a few hours, and in some cases in less than one hour, and no wonder. The people are in a state of abject wretchedness. The average number of persons, young and old, crowded into one cabin, the dimensions of which do not exceed those of an ordinary country cabin, was fifty! In each of those cabins eleven families, each family on the average numbering five persons, were located! The daily and only diet of the majority of these people was unseasoned turnips, they not having the means of procuring fire. A committee for dispensing relief in fuel, bedding, and money has been established, and everything calculated to check the ravages of this terrible malady has been had recourse to.

A public meeting to urge the claims of the Temperance movement on young men and Sunday-school teachers, called by the National Temperance Society, was held in the large room of the Whittington club, on Monday evening last. The editor of the *Band of Hope Review* was in the chair, and referred to his own experience as a Sunday-school teacher and as a visitor of gaols, as having led to his adoption of the total abstinence principle and his connexion with this movement which has now subsisted for sixteen years. Other effective addresses were delivered by the Rev. Dr. Burns, Mr. Jackson, city missionary, and Mr. Gerdeller, member of the Sunday-School Union of London. The most marked attention was given to the arguments and facts advanced, and at the close several additions were made to the society from members of the classes for whose peculiar benefit the meeting had been called.

Excavations have recently been made on the supposed site of Macbeth's Castle at Dunsinane, in Perthshire. After removing rubbish for some three feet, a wall was discovered, composed of large stones, neatly joined together, and resting on the rock; but beyond some charcoal and a few bones, no relics were discovered. The investigations will be proceeded with in the course of the summer.

BIRTHS.

March 1st, the wife of Mr. ROGER JONES, grocer, Pontypridd, of a son.
March 6th, at the Manor House, East Acton, Mrs. WALTON, of a son.
March 9th, at South Lambeth, the wife of Mr. KENDALL COSLEY, of a daughter.
March 8th, at Newbury, the wife of the Rev. JOSEPH DREW, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

March 7th, at the Congregational Church, Holloway, by the Rev. William Brock, of Bloomsbury Chapel, the Rev. P. J. TURQUAND, of Walworth, to MARY EMMA, daughter of GEORGE MICKLE, Esq., Bedford-place, Russell-square.
March 8th, at Albany Chapel, Camberwell, GEORGE, eldest son of the Rev. G. ROGERS, Frederick's-terrace, Peckham, to MARIA, youngest daughter of the late J. O. ROBINSON, Esq., of Leeds.
March 9th, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Exeter, EDWARD CASFIELD, of Liverpool, to ELLEN, third daughter of JOHN DYMOND, of that city.
March 9th, at Kingsland Chapel, Bristol, by the Rev. J. A. Pratt, Mr. OWEN to Miss BENNETT, both of Bristol.
March 11th, at Islington, by the Rev. Ebenezer Brown Allen, cousin to the bride, Mr. WILLIAM HITCHIN, of Cambridge-terrace, Greenwich, to ELIZABETH SARAH, eldest daughter of the late Mr. JAMES BROWN, of Theberton-square, Islington.

DEATHS.

February 24th, at Woodhurst, Hunts, SUSANNA, wife of Mr. JOHN LONGLAND EKINS, aged 59.
February 24th, the infant son of Mr. FREDERICK JEFFERIES, 70, High-street, Camden-town, surviving its mother five weeks.
March 2nd, at Winchester, Hants, after a long and painful illness, borne with much Christian patience, MARY ANN, the beloved wife of JOSEPH SANDERS, Esq., of Sutherland-square, Walworth, and the eldest daughter of RUSSELL PONTIFEX, Esq., of Trinity-square, Southwark, in the 56th year of her age.
March 3rd, at College-house, Chiswick, Middlesex, aged 50, ELEANOR, the beloved wife of CHARLES WHITTINGHAM, printer, of Took's-court, Chancery-lane.
March 5th, at Wymsey, in the 65th year of her age, the Hon. Lady WILLIAMS WYNN, wife of the Right Hon. Sir HENRY WATKINS WILLIAMS WYNN, K.C.B. and G.C.H.
March 5th, deeply lamented by his family and a numerous circle of friends, Mr. JAMES LAYNE, of Houndsditch, in the 67th year of his age.
March 7th, after only eight days' illness, JANE, the beloved wife of the Rev. J. P. LEWIS, Diss, Norfolk, in the 37th year of her age.
March 8th, at 18, Kingsdown-parade, Bristol, Hannah, relict of the late Mr. RICHARD WEARING, of Trowbridge, aged 69. Her end was peace.
March 8th, at Islington, aged 64, Mrs. YOUNG, relict of the late Mr. JOSEPH YOUNG, of Stoke Hills, Ipswich, and Diss, Norfolk.
March 8th, in the Bethnal-green Workhouse, JANE GREEN, in her 104th year. She had a numerous family, her youngest daughter being now upwards of 70 years. Her faculties were all perfect, and her sight so good that she could read any ordinary print even without the assistance of spectacles, and enjoyed good health to the last, though lately she has been confined to her bed.
March 9th, JOHN CLIVTON, of Gullaboro, aged 95, he was a member of the Baptist Church in that place 69 years.
March 9th, after nine days' illness, Mr. CHARLES PAYNE, of Salisbury; an active deacon of the church, and the devoted superintendent of the Sunday-school at Scots-lane Chapel in that city, aged 41 years.
March 10th, at Bedwelty-house, Monmouthshire, WILLIAM THOMPSON, Esq., M.P., of Underly-hall, Westmoreland, and Pen-y-darren-house, in the county of Glamorgan.
March 13th, in the 66th year of her age, ELIZABETH, relict of Mr. JOHN TINGLES, of Kettering.

Gleanings.

There are in Paris 80,000 Freemasons. The Grand Master is Prince Murat.

The *Jersey Times* states that an English house has sent an order to Granville for twenty-eight million of oysters.

It is confidently stated that the new camp will be formed early in May next, on the open downs near the Military College of Sandhurst.

The New England Society of Brooklyn, at their banquet this year, admitted women and excluded wine.

Count Rumford, by boring a cannon within water, so heated it by the friction that he made it boil, and actually boiled a piece of beef in it.

Mr. Henry Drummond, M.P., in a pamphlet just published, called the "Fate of Christendom," proclaims the end of the world to be immediately at hand.

"Mother," said a young playful son, "are you happy?" "O yes, my dear—very happy." "Well, then, I hope you will keep so: Johnny has broken your favourite tea-cup!"

After an aristocratic wedding in Devonshire, last week, a perfect shower of satin slippers, in lieu of the traditional old shoe, was thrown after the carriage containing the happy pair.

A report circulated in Melbourne at the emigrant's expense, is that of the lady, who, when her quarterly bills came in, had nothing to do but run into her garden, take a dish, and wash some gold, pay her bills, and go on again!

There is an hotel in New Jersey, on the sea shore, occupying three sides of a square, with a total frontage of 1,318 feet (just a quarter of a mile). It has a mile and a half of verandah, and accommodates 3,800 persons.

A St. Petersburg letter states that the tobacco dealers have brought out what they call the Nachimoff cigar, in commemoration of the affair of Sinope.

The waters of the Red Sea appear to be thirty-two feet higher than the Mediterranean, and the Gulf of Mexico is twenty-two feet higher than the Pacific.

A project is now being promoted for a railway from the northern counties to London, for the exclusive carriage of coals and other minerals, bulky goods, and agricultural produce. The estimated capital required is £4,000,000.

The *Gateshead Observer* says that "a pitman's wife having heard that the 'King of Germany,' at the instigation of the Emperor of Russia, had mixed poison with all the yeast that is exported to this country, has discontinued the use of the German article!"

He who marries a pretty face only, is like a buyer of cheap furniture—the varnish that caught the eye will not endure the fireside blaze.

One of the best double puns we have ever heard, says the *Yankee Blade*, was perpetrated by a clergyman. He had just united in marriage a couple whose Christian names were respectively Benjamin and Ann. "How did they appear during the ceremony?" inquired a friend. "They appeared both *annite-mated* and *bene-fitted*," was the ready reply.

Mr. Whiteside, the barrister, cross-examining a witness in Dublin somewhat rudely, asked him if he had never been before a police-court! "Yes," said he, "I was fined for an assault. A barrister so annoyed me by cross-examination that I knocked him down when he came out of the court." (Roars of laughter.)

In the hearing of an Irish case for assault and battery, in the United States, counsel cross-examining one of the witnesses, asked him what they had at the first place they stopped at? "Four glasses of ale." "What next?" "Two glasses of wine." "What next?" "One glass of brandy." "What next?" "A fight."

The *Memorial Bordelais* states that, not far from St. Sever, there is living an old military man who has a false leg and a false arm, both moveable by means of springs, a glass eye, a complete set of false teeth, a nose of silver, covered with a substance perfectly resembling flesh, and a silver plate replacing part of the skull. He bears on his breast the cross of the Legion of Honour, won in the campaigns of Egypt, Italy, and Russia; at Friedland, Jena, Austerlitz, Wagram, and Waterloo.

The following is an extract from the Lenton pastoral of Archbishop Cullen, which was recently read at all the chapels in Dublin:—"Never engage in those improper dances imported from other countries, and retaining foreign names, such as polkas and waltzes, which are so repugnant to the notions of strict Christian morality, are condemned by many of the highest and most respectable members of society, and are at direct variance with that purity and modesty of the female character for which Ireland has been ever distinguished."

A writer on the hair in the *Quarterly Review* appears to have ascertained that there is no less a quantity than five tons of human hair imported from foreign countries into England in a year, applicable, as we must suppose, mainly to the perruquier's art. The black hair comes mostly from Brittany and the south of France; it is generally of a very fine and silken black. The light hair comes from Germany, where it is collected by the agents of a Dutch Company, who make yearly visits to various parts of the Germanic States.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Tuesday evening.

The announcement of the French loan of 10,000,000, has been followed by an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. both in London and Paris. The applications in Paris are stated to be very numerous and influential, and already, on both sides of the water, the loan is quoted at $1\frac{1}{2}$ premium. It is believed that the Paris bourse is at present additionally strengthened by the fact that large sales have been recently made by bankers and capitalists, with a view to taking up the new loan, in consequence of which operations many of these parties are now "out of stock."

The arrangement of the monthly Consols account, which is now on, proves that there has been a heavy and extensive speculation for the fall. The demand for money for commercial purposes is still active, and several railways are requiring the renewal of loans. The shipments to the Continent continue on a large scale, whilst the foreign arrivals are on a very restricted scale. Nor is there any reason to expect ships from Australia with gold for some weeks to come. Consols to-day are a shade lower; after bargains at 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 91 $\frac{1}{2}$, they now stand at 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 91 $\frac{1}{2}$. India Bonds are 4s. to 7s. prem. Exchequer Bills are dull at 10s. to 14s., owing to the forthcoming issue of new bills. All departments of business in the house is very restricted.

There is an increased demand for money in general commercial circles. In Lombard-street and elsewhere difficulty is experienced in obtaining discount of even the best paper under $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The efflux of gold has naturally a tendency to tighten the money market.

The last returns from the Bank of England for the week ending Saturday, the 4th inst., were important, as showing a heavy drain upon the stock of Bullion. The meeting of proprietors to consider the declaration of a dividend will be held to-morrow.

The arrivals of specie this week have amounted to £750,000, of which nearly the whole was silver. The exports, including a sum of between £200,000 and £300,000, taken from the Bank on Saturday, are supposed to have reached about £700,000, the chief portion consisting of gold to Paris.

The demand for gold for remittance to the continent continues extremely active, and has led to further large withdrawals of the precious metal from the Bank. This demand has now quite assumed the proportions of a drain, and future returns of the Bank will exhibit a heavy diminution in the metallic stock. The exchanges must necessarily be depressed by the remittance to France of the portion of the French loan raised in England. On the other hand, as fifteen months are allowed for the payment of all the instalments, these remittances will be spread over that period of time.

The Sardinian Government is in want of a loan to the extent of about £1,500,000, which it is expected will be offered in the London market.

There has been a rally in several of the Foreign Securities. Russian have recovered 3 to 4 per cent., Sardinian are better, and Dutch are firmer to-day. Chilean Six per Cents were 101 $\frac{1}{2}$; Danish Three per Cents, 76; Mexican, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 24 $\frac{1}{2}$; Russian Five per Cents, 91; Spanish Three per Cents., 37 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Railway Shares are generally steady. Aberdeen shares are 5s. higher for the next account; Edinburgh and Perth 10s. lower; Great Northern steady at for-

mer prices; Great Westerns, 77½ 78½ for money, and 78½ for account; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 68½ 69½ for the account; Midlands, 61 for money and account; South Easterns, 62½ for money, and 63½ for account; North Westerns, 101½ 101½ for money, and 101½ for time; Great Western of Canada shares further advanced to 22½ for money, and 23 for the account, and the Bonds to 14 premium.

In Bank Shares and Mines little doing. Crystal Palace Shares improved to 1½ premium.

The reports from the manufacturing towns for the past week show no important changes, and continue, on the whole, favourable. At Manchester the market has been languid, especially as regards the home trade, and there has been a consequent decline in prices; but, looking at the extent of last year's business, the commencement of war has been attended with far less disturbance than could have been anticipated. From Birmingham there is the old account of increasing activity, the pressure for iron manufactures being such that contracts can scarcely be effected, except upon a stipulation that the buyer shall be subject to any advance in price that may be declared at the next quarterly meetings of the trade. The question as to the injury that would result to the town from the contemplated establishment of a Government gun manufactory is still a subject of strong discussion. At Nottingham, business both in hosiery and lace has been benefited by the fineness of the weather. In the woollen districts the home trade has been very dull, but employment is still general, and stocks are not increasing to any inconvenient extent. The Irish linen markets have been more active, but the advances mention that the sowing of flaxseed this season has been limited, owing to the space of land under wheat being nearly double the usual extent.

The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the past week show an increase. They have comprised altogether 12 vessels, nine to Port Phillip, with an aggregate burden of 5,272 tons; one to Sydney, of 918 tons; one to Launceston, of 336 tons; and one to Hobart-town, of 463 tons. Their total capacity was 6,989 tons. The rates of freight exhibit firmness, with a tendency to further improvement.

In the general business of the port of London during the past week there has been considerable activity. The number of vessels reported inward was 162, being an increase of 22 over the previous week. Of grain there were reported 36,265 quarters, including 22,047 quarters of wheat; of flour, 18,529 barrels and 7,539 sacks; of tea, 49,721 packages; of sugar, 919 hogsheads, 246 casks, 943 cases, and 32,116 bags; of coffee, 81 casks and 274 bags; and of rice, 7,411 bags. The number of ships cleared outward was 103, being an increase of 23 over the previous week. Of these 23 were in ballast, and 12, as above stated, for the Australian colonies.

The Gazette.

Friday, March 9th, 1854.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 4th day of March, 1854.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	29,157,670	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	2,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	15,157,670
		Silver Bullion	—
	29,157,670		29,157,670

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	—
Reserve	3,713,915	— (including Dead Weight Annuity)	11,751,555
Public Deposits	3,741,851	Other Securities	13,341,821
Other Deposits	1,244,639	Notes	7,699,720
Seven Day and other Bills	1,090,934	Gold and Silver Coin	751,233
	233,344,329		233,344,329

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated the 9th day of March, 1854.

This "Gazette" contains a notice that the following place has been duly registered for the solemnization of marriages therein:— Wesleyan Chapel, Stockport.

BANKRUPTS.

BREAN, F. George-yard, Lombard-street, hotel keeper, March 22, at 2, and April 24, at 1, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sol. Messrs. Miller and Carr, Eastcheap; off. assig., H. H. Stansfield.
BOOTH, T. Halifax, inn-keeper, March 21, at 12, and April 24, at 11, at Leeds Court Sol. Mr. Mitchell Halifax; off. assig., Mr. Hope, Leeds.
COUZENS, D. East Stonehouse, cab proprietor, March 27, and April 24, at half-past 1, at Exeter Court. Sol. Mr. Elsworth, Plymouth; off. assig., Mr. Hirtzel, Exeter.
HOLMS, W. C. High-street, Putney, grocer, March 24 and April 25, at 1, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sol. Messrs. Hare and Whitfield, Mitre-court, Temple; off. assig., Mr. Edwards, Basinghall-street.
HICKS, W. J. Waltham Abbey, draper, March 18, at 12, and April 21, at 1, at Basinghall-street. Sol. Messrs. Davidson and Bradbury, Basinghall-street; off. assig., Mr. Cannan, Aldermanbury.

HARRISON, J. Sunderland, licensed victualler, March 22, at 11, and April 29, at 12, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Court. Sol. Messrs. W. L. Harte, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, and Butcher Bank, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

JOHNSON H. Turnwheel-lane, Cannon-street, engineer, March 23, at half-past 1, and April 27, at 12, at Basinghall-street. Sol. Mr. Teague, Crown-court, Chancery; off. assig., Mr. Bell, Coleman-street-buildings.

McKENNA, T. Belfast and Manchester, draper, March 24 and April 28, at 12, at Manchester Court. Sol. Messrs. Sale, Worthington, and Shipman, Manchester; off. assig., Mr. Herniman, Manchester.

POTTS, J. Stoke-upon-Trent, confectioner, March 23 and April 25, at 12, at Birmingham Court. Sol. Mr. Smith, Temple-street, Birmingham; off. assig., Mr. Christie, Birmingham.

ROOKES, H. J. Callington, Cornwall, surgeon, March 22, at 2, and April 20, at 1, at Exeter Court. Sol. Messrs. Edmunds and Son, Plymouth, and Stogdon, Exeter; off. assig., Mr. Hirtzel, Exeter.

SHAW, E. Birmingham, pocket book maker, March 25 and April 24, at Birmingham Court. Sol. Mr. Hodgson, Birmingham; off. assig., Mr. J. Christie.

TAYLOR, C. J. Birmingham, coal dealer, March 22 and April 26, at 12, at Birmingham Court. Sol. Mr. Hodgson, Birmingham; off. assig., Mr. F. Whitmore, Birmingham.

WATSON, W. J., Upper Holloway, builder, March 21, at 12, and

April 20, at 1, at Basinghall-street. Sol. Mr. Brown, Finsbury-place; off. assig., Mr. Bell, Coleman-street-buildings.

BANKRUPTCY ANNOUNCED.

W. BENNETT, Foster Mill, Hobden-bridge, Yorkshire, cotton spinner.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS.

J. STANLEY, Brighton, corn merchant—second div. of 4½d. any Wednesday at Mr. Whitmore's, Basinghall-street.
T. TRAMER, Buckingham, jun., inn-keeper—first div. of 2s. 9d., any Wednesday at Whitmore's, Basinghall-street.

J. MALTRAVES, Skinner-street, Biahopgate-street, brewer—final div. of 2s. 9d. on Wednesday next, and two following Wednesdays, at Mr. Lee's, Moorgate-street.

J. H. ARNOLD, and W. H. WOLLETT, Clement's-lane, insurance agents—third div. of 1s. 2½d. and 2s. 4½d. on new proofs, on Saturday next, and three following Saturdays, at Mr. Edwards's, Sambrook-court, Basinghall-street.

J. H. ARNOLD, Clement's-lane, insurance agent—third div. of 4s. 9d., on Saturday next, and three following Saturdays, at Mr. Edwards's, Basinghall-street.

W. CORBETT, Bear-gardens, Southwark, lead merchant—first div. of 20s., on Saturday next, and three following Saturdays, at Mr. Edwards's, Basinghall-street.

M. T. S. WELSH, Romford, linendraper—2nd div. of 5s. 9d. and 2s. 7½d., on new proofs, on Saturday next, and three following Saturdays, at Mr. Edwards's, Basinghall-street.

J. W. CARR, Chadwell, Saint Mary, Tilbury-foat, inn-keeper—first div. of 1s. 10d., on Saturday next, and three following Saturdays, at Mr. Edwards's, Basinghall-street.

W. BRADFORD, Leigh, Worcester, butcher—first div. of 2s. 9d., any Thursday, at Mr. Whitmore's, Birmingham.

O. G. CRESWELL, Kidderminster, chemist and druggist—first div. 3s. 7d. any Thursday at Whitmore's, Birmingham.

J. ASKET, Shelton, Stafford, timber merchant—first div. of 9s. 2½d., any Thursday at Mr. Whitmore's, Birmingham.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

SAWTELL, MUNN, and DESGRAND, Paisley and London, manufacturers, March 20, at the Sheriff's Head Inn, Paisley.

GAVIN DICKSON, Glasgow and Liverpool, merchants, March 24, Garrick's Royal Hotel, Glasgow.

H. & J. BAIRD, Paisley, manufacturers, March 30, at the Vulcan Hotel (Weir's), Paisley.

MARTIN, SONS, and COMPANY, Glasgow, vinegar, pickle, and sauce manufacturers, March 12, at the Crow Hotel, Glasgow.

Tuesday, March 13th, 1854.

BANKRUPTS.

GORLE, J. Shoreham, Sussex, miller, to surrender March 22, at 2, and April 26, at 12, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sol. Mr. Edmunds, South-square, Gray's-inn; off. assig., Mr. Stansfield.

GUENHEIMER MAX, otherwise MAXIMILIAN GUENHEIMER, Aldermanbury, and Fore-street, importer of foreign goods, March 21, at half-past 1, and April 26, at 1, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sol. Messrs. Sole, Turner, and Aldermanbury, and Mr. Hodgson, Birmingham; off. assig., Mr. Graham.

FORD, A. Lowndes-street, Belgrave-square, surgeon, March 22, at 2, and April 26, at 1, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sol. Messrs. Smith, Southampton-buildings, Holborn; off. assig., Mr. Graham.

MEADOWS, H. Wellington, Northamptonshire, druggist, March 24, and April 25, at 2, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sol. Mr. Roscoe, King-street, Finsbury, and Mr. Cook, Wellington; off. assig., Mr. Edwards, Sambrook-court, Basinghall-street.

COOPER, W. H. Great James-street, Bedford-row, upholsterer, March 24, at 2, and April 24, at 1, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sol. Messrs. Parker, Rooke, and Co., Bedford-row; and Messrs. Sele, Turner, and Turner, Aldermanbury; off. assig., Mr. Lee, Moorgate-street.

HUGHESON, W. Kennington-oval, Lambeth, licensed victualler, March 23, at half-past 12, April 20, at 2, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sol. Mr. Lloyd, Milk-street, Cheapside; off. assig., Mr. Johnson, Basinghall-street.

LONG, T. London-road, Southwark, horse dealer, March 18, at 2, May 1, at 12, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sol. Messrs. Lawrance, Plevs, and Bowyer, Old Jewry-chambers; off. assig., Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street.

HEAD, J. Exeter, silversmith, March 23, and April 20, at 1, at the Exeter District Court of Bankruptcy. Sol. Messrs. Bishop and Pitts, Exeter; off. assig., Mr. Hirtzel, Exeter.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS.

T. P. WILLS, Portsea, trader—second div. of 3½d., on Wednesday next, and two subsequent Wednesdays, at Mr. Lee's, Moorgate-street.

R. BRENNAN, Addele-street, Wood-street, warehouseman—first div. of 9d., on Wednesday next, and two subsequent Wednesdays, at Mr. Lee's, Moorgate-street.

G. and T. HART, Union-street, Southwark, trimming manuf. facturers—final div. of 1½d., any Wednesday, at Mr. Whitmore's, Basinghall-street.

T. AYSON, Leeds, stone merchant—first div. of 5s., any day, at Mr. G. Young's, Leeds.

FENTON, MURRAY, and JACKSON, Leeds, engineers—second div. of 4s., any day, at Mr. G. Young's, Leeds.

J. W. ACKROYD, Bradford, worsted spinner—second div. of 2d., any day, at Mr. G. Young's, Leeds.

S. CRUTZ, Liverpool, slater—first div. of 7s. 10d., Thursday next, or any Thursday, at Mr. Casenove's, Liverpool.

W. CROSS, Chester, lead merchant—div. of 1s. 5d., on new proofs, any Thursday, at Mr. Casenove's, Liverpool.

J. GRAY, Chester, ironfounder—first div. of 20s., on the separate estate, any Thursday, at Mr. Casenove's, Liverpool.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. M'DONNELL, Ballinlinton, Lanarkshire, Draper, March 23, at 12, at the Crow Hotel, Glasgow.

G. BUCHANAN, Glasgow, dealer in shares, March 23, at 1, at Carrick's Hotel, Glasgow.

E. COCHRAN, Glasgow, manufacturer, March 22, at 11, at the Town Clerk's office, Glasgow.

DUNSTAN and STEVEN, Glasgow, merchants, March 23, at 1, at Garrick's Royal Hotel, Glasgow.

Markets.

MARK-LANE, MONDAY, March 13, 1854.

We had a short supply of English Wheat at Market this morning, but a clearance could not be effected, although offered 2s. per qr. under last Monday's prices; the Sale of foreign was slow, and purchases might have been made without difficulty at a similar reduction. Of Flour there were but few buyers, and we reduce our quotations 1s. to 2s. per barrel from Monday last. Fine Barley without material change, but other descriptions dull. In Beans and Pease little doing. The supply of Oats was moderate, the Trade was nevertheless inactive, although last Monday's prices were maintained. Tares met with less enquiry. Cloverseeds saleable at about previous rates.

BUTCHERS' MEAT, SMITHFIELD, MONDAY, March 13.—For the time of year, the show of foreign Stock here to-day was but moderate, yet it exceeded the wants of the butchers. The receipts of Beasts fresh up from our own grazing districts were rather extensive, and in excellent condition. Although the attendance of buyers was tolerably good, the demand for all breeds of Beasts ruled excessively dull, at barely last Monday's decline in the quotations; indeed, in some instances, prices were drooping. The extreme figure for the best Scots was 4s. 4d. per 8lbs. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received 2,700 Scots and Shorthorns; from other parts of England, 700 of various breeds; and from Scotland, 400 Scots. The numbers of Sheep were moderately good. On the whole, the Mutton Trade was depressed, and in some cases prices were rather easier than on this day's night. The highest figure for the best old Downs, in the wool, was 4s. 10d.; out of the wool, within a fraction of 4s. 2d. per 8lbs. The difference between the value of long-wooled Sheep shorn and in the wool was 8d. per 8lbs. The few Lambs on offer sold steadily at from 6s. to 6s. 8d. per 8lbs. Calves were in short supply, and but moderate request, on former terms. The Pork trade was heavy, at barely stationary prices.

Per 8lbs. to sink the offals.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Cow and inferior	3	0	3	3	Prime coarse wool-	4	4	4	4
Beasts	2	4	3	3	led Sheep	4	4	4	4
Second quality do.	2	4	3	3	Prime South Down	4	4	4	4
Prime large (Oxen)	2	4	3	3	Shew	4	4	4	4
Prime Scots, &c.	4	4	4	4	Large coarse Calves	4	4	4	4
Coarse and inferior	2	4	3	3	Prime small do.	4	4	4	4
Sheep	2	4	3	3	Large Hops	2	0	4	2
Second quality do.	2	4	3	3	West small Parkers	4	4	4	4

Suckling Calves 22s. to 23s.; and quarter-old store Figs, 21s. to 22s. each.

NEWCASTLE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, March 13.—These markets continue to be rather extensively supplied with town and country-killed meat. Although a good business is doing, the demand is far from active, as follows—

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior Beef	2	10	3	3	Inferior Mutton	2	10	3	3
Middling do.	3	4	3	3	Middling do.	3	6	4	4
Prime large do.	3	8	3	3	Prime do.	4	3	4	4
Do. small do.	3	10	4	4	Veal	4	0	5	6
Large Pork	3	4	4	4	Small Pork	4	4	4	4

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, March 13.—There was next to nothing doing in Irish Butter in the early part of last week, but towards the close sales to a fair extent were effected; including further purchases for the northern markets, at from 6½d. to 10½d., according to quality. Foreign was liberally dealt in, at about previous rates. The good, middling, and inferior descriptions were nearly all sold. In Irish singed Bacon there was not much doing; prices the turn in favour of the buyers. No further arrivals of American. A respectable quantity of long and short middles changed hands at 46s. to 50s.

Hams and Lard stationary.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Friesland per cwt.	—	10	11	6	Chester (new)	67	10	80	
Kiel	10	6	11	2	Cheddar	68	8	80	
Dorset (new)	10	8	12	0	Double Gloucester	64	7	70	
Carlton do.	9	8	10	2	Single do.	60	7	70	
Waterford do.	9	4	10	0	York Hams (new)	76	8	80	
Cork do.	9	8	10	4	Westmoreland do.	72	8	80	
Limerick do.	8	6	9	6	Irish do.	70	7	70	
Sligo do.	9	6	10	4	Wiltshire Bacon (green)	60	6	60	
Fresh Butter per doz.	13	15	16	16	Waterford Bacon	58	6	60	

BREAD. The prices of Wheat and Flour in the Metropolis are from 11d. to 11½d.; and Household do., 10½d. to 10¾d. per 4lbs loaf.

POTATOES, BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, March 13.—The supplies of Potatoes on sale in these markets are moderate. The demand is steady, at fully last week's currency. The imports have amounted to 240 tons from Rotterdam, 73 ditto from Dublin, and 40 from Belfast. York Regents, 12s. to 13s.; Scotch ditto, 11s. to 12s.; Irish whites, 10s. to 11s.; Foreign ditto, 10s. to 11s. per ton.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, March 13.—During the past week the demand has considerably improved, and all samples with colour and fair quality have met with a ready sale at fully the currency of last week.

SEEDS, Monday, March 13.—The demand for Cloverseed, &c., for actual use continues brisk, and prices are now fully maintained. The choicer qualities of all descriptions being scarce, obtain slightly advanced rates.

COVENT GARDEN, Saturday, March 11.—The supply of Vegetables is steadily improving, and most kinds of Fruit are also sufficient for the demand. Late Grapes are, however, getting scarce. Peas are now confined to Beurre d'Espérance, Easter Beurre, and Ne Plus Meurt. Amongst dessert Apples there are still good samples of Ribston Pippin and Old Nonpareil. Chestnuts are plentiful as are also Cucumbers, at 1s. 6d. to 3s. each. In Potatoes, the market is well supplied, but trade is heavy. Asparagus continues to come in at 8s. and 10s. per hundred, and Sea-kale at 1s. and 2s. per punnet. Carrots and Turnips are cheaper. Some good Broccoli is still arriving from Cornwall, and also from the Continent. Amongst Salad Vegetables are Radishes at 6d. to 9d. per bunch, and Cabbage Lettuces at 3d. to 4d. each. There are also excellent Carrots and Globe Artichokes. Mushrooms are scarce. Cut flowers consist of Camellias, Azaleas, Cyclamens, Heath Hyacinths, Tulips, and Roses.

CHICORY, LONDON, Saturday, March 11.—The supplies of both English and foreign Chicory on offer are extensive. The demand is a sluggish state, and prices are barely supported. This week's imports are 293 bags from Harlingen, and 130 ditto from Guernsey.

TALLOW, LONDON, Monday, March 13.—The business doing in our market is very moderate, nevertheless prices are well supported. P.Y.C. on the spot, 65s. 2d.; and for forward delivery, 64s. 6d. to 65s. per cwt. Town Tallow, 62s. 6d. net cash. Rough Fat, 5s. 6d. per 5 lbs.

Particulars of Tallow.

	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
Stock	35,376	35,396	46,549	36,569	36,285
Price of F.O.	37s. 6d. to 38s. 6d.	38s. 6d. to 39s. 6d.	39s. 6d. to 40s. 6d.	40s. 6d. to 41s. 6d.	41s. 6d. to 42s. 6d.
Delivery last week	1,087	1,536	2,456	2,235	1,364
Disto from 1st June	77,928	79,889	90,349	82,825	81,514
Arrival last week	—	210	—	786	937
Disto from 1st June	87,854	92,196	100,664	78,577	93,484
Price of Town	39s. 6d.	40s. 6d.	41s. 6d.	42s. 6d.	43s. 6d.

COALS, Monday.—A very heavy market. Before factors could effect sales, they were obliged to submit to a reduction on Friday's rates. Haswell, 21s. 6d.; Stewarts, 21s. 6d.; Huttons, 21s. 6d.; Roper Grange, 20s.; Hartleys, 20s.; Tansfield, 18s.; R. Huttons, 21s.—Fresh arrivals, 22; left from last day, 61. Total, 163.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The imports of wool into London last week were only 691 bales, of which 422 were from the Cape of Good Hope, 69 from Germany, and 23 from Belgium.

The market is quiet after the recent auctions. Deep-grown combing wools continue in very moderate request; and in some instances, the quotations have a downward tendency. Short-wooled qualities are in moderate supply and steady request, at very full prices.

PRODUCE MARKET.

SPICES.—The market has again opened with a downward tendency, and a decline of 6d. has been fully established on Mauritius and Madras in public sale, but the good and fine Barbadoes were steadily bought by the grocers from 33s. 6d. to 40s., which were last week's prices. 710 hdds. West India sold to-day, about half of which were Barbadoes and Demerara, in public sale; 17,000 bags of Mauritius offered in public sale; 6,000 were withdrawn or bought in; the remainder sold 36s. to 42s. 6d.; 2,700 bags Bengal offered, about 1,200 sold, 35s. to 41s. 6d. The refined market steady, at last week's prices; grocery lumps, 44s. 6d. to 50s.

COFFEES.—There has not been a public sale to-day, and the market is very dull; native Ceylon, 47s. to 47s. 6d.

TEA.—The large public sales declared for Thursday have suspended business by private contract.

RICE.—2,800 bags good white Bengal were offered in public sale, for which previous prices were not bid, and they were withdrawn at 15s. 6d.

SALTPEPER.—The demand has been very limited to-day, prices are unaltered.

COTTON.—200 bales sold at last week's prices.

COCHINEAL.—110 bags were offered in public sale, and nearly all bought in.

TALLOW remains quoted steady at 64s.

In other articles no material alteration; markets generally inactive to-day.

Advertisements.

MILL-HILL-SCHOOL, Hendon, Middlesex.

Head Master, Rev. PHILIP SMITH, B.A.
Applications for the admission of pupils, and for preliminary information, may be made to the Head Master, or to the Secretary.
By order of the Committee,
ALGERNON WELLS, Secretary.
Old Jewry-chambers.

EDUCATION.—Clapton House School,

Park End, Upper Sydenham. In the neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace and Gardens.—Young Gentlemen received by Mr. G. FOSTER as Boarders or Weekly Boarders. This locality is very inviting, being particularly healthful.—Reference is permitted to H. Bateman, Esq., Sun-street; J. Vautin, Esq., Clapton; J. Powell, Esq., Lime-street, and others.

ELOCUTION and ENGLISH COMPOSITION.—Mr. CHARLES W. SMITH, Professor of Elocution, has removed to 53, Newmarket-street, Oxford-street.

Four private lessons, 10s. 6d. Testimonials from, and references to, pupils. SMITH'S HINTS ON ELOCUTION, post free for Fourteen stamps. "Materials for years of reflection."—*Leader*, October 5, 1850. THE BLASPHEMOUS TE DEUM, a Letter on the Massacre of St. Peter, post free for four stamps.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.—Mrs.

TODD'S ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES is REMOVED from SALISBURY to PERRY-HILL HOUSE, SYDENHAM. The Mansion and Grounds are extensive, elevated, easy of access, and afford every facility. THE COURSE OF TUITION—English, French, Italian, German, Latin, Natural Philosophy, Music, Drawing in all styles, &c. OBJECTS AIMED AT,—the union of domestic comfort and school discipline; the highest intellectual and moral culture; qualification, by habits of thoroughness and self-reliance, for the responsibilities of life.
Terms, THIRTY GUINEAS. Full particulars and references by post.
Referees:—A. Pellatt, Esq., M.P.; R. Harris, Esq., late M.P., Leicester; H. Brown, Esq., M.P.; Mrs. Clara L. Balfour; Revs. F. Trestrall, S. J. Davies, J. P. Mursell, Dr. Redford, T. Thomas, Pontypool; and D. Pratt, Esq., London; Revs. A. M. Stalker, J. J. Brown, S. Manning, J. C. Middleditch, T. Winter, and G. H. Davis.

Recently published, cloth, price 2s. 6d.

THE YOUTHWFUL INQUIRER

COUNSELLED and ENCOURAGED. By HENRY N. BARNETT.—Fully recognizing 'the right of private judgment,' in the widest interpretation of that phrase, it is the aim of this work to illustrate, and as far as may be, to guide the progress of the youthful mind from a state of religious indifference, through the various stages of inquiry and scepticism, to the repose of faith.

"Mr. Barnett is a vigorous writer and a dauntless thinker."—*Patriot*.

"If the present volume get fair play, it will circulate extensively among young men. It contains a large amount of sound thinking, high principle, and excellent counsel."—*British Banner*.

"Almost all in the work from which we differ is the result of a reaction from something equally wrong, often more wrong, on the other side. It is evidently the work of an earnest, thoughtful, and, we trust, also, a devout mind."—*The Church*.

"Mr. Barnett writes in a manly, bold, and candid spirit, and in a style remarkable for freedom, force, and directness. We cannot approve of the manner in which he occasionally expresses his dissent from current and conventional modes of thought, and condemns the position of parties from whom he differs. With the exception of these blemishes, the book has our strong approval, as, in many respects, the very work needed by a largely increasing class, and well qualified to render it service and assistance."—*Christian Spectator*.

"There is neither cant, nor fear, nor bigotry in these pages. It is the bravest little work that we have had in our hands for a very long time, and its thoughtfulness matches its heroism."—*Political Examiner*.

"This little work is an inquiry into the mysteries of the Christian religion, and, while it repudiates doctrinal forms and the unsatisfactory creeds which are based on prejudices, dogma, or tradition, it is fervidly earnest and admirable alike in tone and manner. The latitude of its inquiries, the calm and temperate tone in which it analyzes objections and makes reason and religion subjective to each other will secure for it that attentive reading it so deservedly merits. Its author, a Minister and Bible Class leader, has a right to speak and to be heard."—*Weekly Dispatch*.

The mode of our author is popular rather than philosophical. His style is sometimes unduly ambitious, and some of the lectures would have benefited by condensation. But, having made this statement, we can honestly praise them for remarkable liberality of spirit, fearlessness of utterance, and general ability."—*Christian Reformer*.

"A small volume of good counsel, on religious subjects, conceived in a fair spirit, and especially worthy of perusal, as encouraging an individual formation of opinion, too often lost sight of in blindly following the lead of others."—*Leicester Mercury*.

"This little volume is unquestionably the product of a very cultivated and acute mind. The thoughts are original and forcible, and are conveyed in chaste and telling language."—*The Sheffield Independent*.

"Here is a little book on which we should like to draw largely, for it is written with great vigour, contains much that is suggestive and valuable for its high mental quality, and argues in a manly strain for the exercise of free thought in religious opinion. To the thoughtful and intelligent the work will furnish ample materials for study and reflection."—*Plymouth Journal*.

"Though it has been the anxious desire of the author throughout to add some slight contribution to the defence of that beautiful Christian faith to which he is so heartily devoted, yet nothing is ever said that can prejudice in any manner the upright and independent thinker. If the youth of this country would follow the instruction of such a guide as this, and imitate his calm and dignified method of inquiry and discussion, we should soon have multitudes of earnest Christians, who not only speculatively believe but, what is of infinitely more importance, would diligently practise the truths of the Christian revelation."—*The Empire*.

"There is a freshness and piquancy about the treatise which please us much; and after all it may be, we must be content to take the blemishes we have indicated, as the almost inseparable concomitants of a fearless and impetuous spirit of reform. On the whole, we have highly relished the book."—*Hastings and St. Leonards News*.

"He writes in an earnest manner, and is thoroughly imbued with a liberal—some theologians may perhaps consider too liberal—spirit. The essays, which are eight in number, exhibit thought, observation, and graphic power in no ordinary degree."— *Ipswich Express*.

"It is seldom that the young are counselled after the bold, yet truthful style of the author of this work, which is one of the most remarkable of the class that has ever appeared. . . . The book is full of clear, sound, and vigorous principles in every branch of thought and duty on which it treats, and is well calculated to improve the serious, thoughtful mind."—*Birmingham Mercury*.

The distinguishing characteristic of this little volume is its remarkable unlikeness to all other works, little or big, which have been put forth with the same pretensions. Instead of trammelling thought, and smothering inquiry, and hedging in the neophyte with prickles on this side, and spikes on that, carefully narrowing the passage till it ends in a funnel, discharging its contents at the door of this church or yonder chapel, he would leave both free as the winds of heaven, in order that a man's creed may result from his own honest convictions. It is addressed to the young—we hope the public will not interpret the word in the sense of years alone; there is many a young fellow in his grand climacteric to whom it will be meat and drink, and we should say that there are parts of it over which most men under sixty may ponder with advantage."—*Tait's Magazine*.

London: William Freeman, 60, Fleet-street.

FUTVOYE'S PRESENTS for the SEASON, comprising every description of English and Foreign Fancy Goods, Dressing and Writing Cases, Workboxes, Jewellery, Clocks, Watches, Bronzes, China, Glass, Alabaster, Papier Mache, and French Stationery, at Paris prices; Bibles, Prayer-books, and thousands of articles in bijouterie and vertu.—FUTVOYE and Co., 154, Regent-street, corner of Beak-street.

FUTVOYE'S EIGHT-DAY ROUND BRASS DIALS, 14s. 6d. each, warranted; also an immense variety of French Clocks under shades, from £2 2s. each, of the newest and most elegant designs.—FUTVOYE and Co., 154, Regent-street, corner of Beak-street, and 34, Rue de Rivoli, Paris.

FUTVOYE'S £3 3s. LADIES' ROSEWOOD DRESSING-CASES, with Jewel Drawers and Solid Silver Top Bottles.—An immense variety of Writing and Dressing Cases, Despatch Boxes, Souffettes, Work-boxes, filled Reticules, and every description of Fancy Cabinet and Leather Goods.—154, Regent-street, corner of Beak-street.

FUTVOYE'S £4 4s. GOLD WATCHES four holes jewelled, horizontal escapement, warranted.—Silver Watches, £2 10s. Solid Gold Chains, of their own manufacture, sold at per ounce, and the fashion only charged. Every description of Jewellery taken in exchange, or purchased for cash.—154, Regent-street, corner of Beak-street.

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